

ŌTAKI TODAY

otakitoday.com

HUNE/JUNE 2022

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki



MNZM for Libby p8



Full programme p9



Old timers at surf club centenary p32



WASHED UP: Doc Ferris shows some of the live clams among millions of shells washed up on Ōtaki Beach.

Photo Ōtaki Today

Clams back on beach

Millions of shells and live shellfish are washing up on Ōtaki Beach, angering long-time fisher and beach resident Doc Ferris, who says the massive numbers are related to harvesting by Marlborough company Cloudy Bay Clams.

It's a claim disputed by Cloudy Bay chief executive Isaac Piper, who says there could be many reasons for shells cast on the beach.

"There have been some algal blooms in rivers and streams within

that area, killing both shellfish and seabirds, and completely unrelated to any fishing activity," Isaac says. "There have also been a number of weather events that again cause shell cast as a natural event."

Doc disagrees.

"This only happens when the clam boat is here," he says. "It's a huge waste and an insult to our mana whenua."

"This beach is a customary fishing area. The people of this land have been coming to the beach for kai moana for centuries. And now we've

got a clam boat dredging everything up in its path."

Cloudy Bay Clams operates with a permit from the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).

The clams are harvested using what Cloudy Bay says is an environmentally friendly "winnowing clam rake" hauled behind the fishing boat. The rake picks up the clams, which are sorted on board according to species. What's too small goes back into the sea.

Doc says the discarded clams can't dig into the sand like tuatua and pipi. Many of them that are still alive wash

up on the beach, along with literally millions of shells.

"What you see on the beach are all small clams," he says. "We're getting baby clams just dying and rotting on the beach. If it was anything but the clam boat that was creating the problem, we'd have clams of all sizes."

Isaac Piper says Cloudy Bay Clams has been fishing in several areas for the past 30 years and he's proud of the fishery and its management.

"We have also had MPI and numerous other parties out on the boat to view the operations, and have

been engaged with multiple iwi from the region."

He says the clam fishery is "very exciting" for New Zealand's future.

It's a view supported by Maurice Takarangi, co-chair of the Iwi Surf Clam Working Group, which has 23 participating iwi of the 57 that have clam quotas.

"We're embarking on a very serious feasibility study which looks at how we could collaborate with Cloudy Bay Clams to develop what is an undeveloped fishery," he says.

continues page 4

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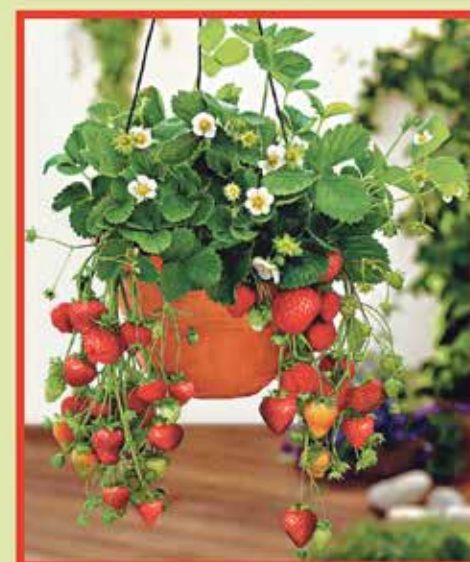
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LOCAL EVENTS

TOTE MODERN: Featured artists during June are Jennifer Turnbull of Jailhouse Pottery and photographer Thomas Green. 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 Friday and Saturday, 49 Main St. Ōtaki. 06 364-6886.

MAHARA ITI: Mahara Gallery at 2 Mahara Place, Waikanae. Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm. Free entry. Birgit Moffatt, "Safe Space", until July 15.

MATARIKI RAMAROA begins Friday June 24, the first Matariki public holiday, at Maclean Park, Paraparaumu Beach. For two nights across June 24-25, the park will light up with art sculptures, live music and performance, food stalls, and more. Celebrations end on July 15-16 with festivities at Ōtaki Beach.

MAORILAND FILM FESTIVAL: June 29 to July 3 during Matariki. More than 80 award-winning feature and short drama and documentary films. (See p10-11.)

LEVIN BIRD CLUB: Saturday-Sunday July 2-3, Ōhau Hall. Open to the public 1-5pm Saturday, 10am-1pm Sunday.

ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD (OCB) MEETING 7pm Tuesday, June 21, 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. Other meetings before the local body elections are August 2 and September 13.

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

ŌTAKI YARD MARKET 219 Main Hwy, Ōtaki. Saturday May 14, 9am-2pm.

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.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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Inattention, or questionable administration?

During a half-hour morning coffee session last month with a 40-year veteran of public service, he commented that the current administration was the most incompetent he had known.

This was, he said, because as a generality it did not know what it was doing and therefore the impact of decisions that it made. The only other government as incompetent, in his view, was the later stages of the Muldoon administration of the late 70s and early 80s. The difference between the two was that members of the Muldoon team knew what they were doing – the decisions were simply not the right ones in the country's interest, he believed.

Against that background recent statements of ministers and departments tell a story of either perplexing inattention to responsibilities or questionable administration.

Minister of Health Andrew Little was recently questioned by National's Dr Shane Reti on emergency department wait times at hospitals as a measure of how the system was performing.

Question: "Why is it nearly a year since emergency department wait times data was last reported publicly to June 2021, and when will the next reporting be?"

Answer: "The performance measure on the proportion of patients admitted, discharged, or transferred from an emergency department within six hours reported on the ministry's website was part of the previous health target reporting. The previous health targets were retired in June 2021 and public reporting of the results was discontinued as part of the introduction of the Health System, Indicators Framework. The Ministry of Health is currently considering data reporting in the new health system."

Minister of Defence Peni Henare, questioned by media as to why he was not able to respond more quickly to reports of China's strategic involvement in the Solomon Islands, responded that he had not been able to have a briefing from his ministry because he had been travelling the country with the minister of finance on a budget explanation exercise.

Energy and Resources Minister Megan

Woods was questioned as to why a Wellington company that provided an electric ferry operating on Wellington Harbour was not given an opportunity to tender to build electric ferries for use on Auckland's waters. The response was that the two Auckland ferries were funded as a Covid-19 shovel-ready project that was not comparable with a normal tender process. This was a

project for which the successful bidder received \$27 million from the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Fund, which would pay for about 75 percent of the cost of the ferries.

It's worth noting in this context that the auditor-general has already been critical of the way money from the Covid-19 fund was handed out to tourism companies with inadequate attention by ministers to criteria for the hand-outs.

There would be value in adding to this mix of ministerial statements those made by Immigration Minister Chris Faafoi and his department on changes to immigration criteria. These would need to be coupled to the number of ministerial statements advising, in response to complaints from employer groups and individuals seeking to work through the system, that in time, when people have become accustomed to the initial paperwork, the new system would be much more efficient and effective.

Given the trend of current political polling, time is not on the side of the minister or the Government. Perceptions of the departmental official seem to gain more credibility week by week. A resurrection of political fortune by the Government calls for a better display of competency than has been on show over the past three months.

China's Pacific foray

Should China not achieve a greater security presence in the South Pacific because of the current foray of its foreign minister into island capitals, even the arrangement it now has with the Solomon Islands might well satisfy its strategic planners. This is because on its own the agreement signed with the Solomons Government offers a presence that can quickly be converted into a more meaningful sea or air military spearhead for confrontation with Anzus, Asian and US interests.

But while Beijing's approaches to South Pacific governments have been attracting attention, there is a further development that ought to be of equal concern. It is the extent to which the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have exposed the vulnerability of global supply chains to the downturn of China's role in international commerce.

Beijing now knows that if it turns off the tap of incoming and outgoing trade from its major ports, including Shanghai and Tianjin, the west will face economic disruption on a massive scale. From the viewpoint of China's strategic planners, it is not often that an opportunity arises to allow the testing in practice of the extent to which the country's trading positions is an effective weapon for influence. It is a lesson for all countries who find their consumer consumption – and balance of payments – overly geared to Chinese relationships.

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

CARTOON OF THE MONTH

By Jared Carson



ŌTAKI TODAY

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki

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Boost for Peka Peka interchange

Prospects for a Peka Peka interchange – some time in the future – on the Ōtaki expressway got a boost when Kāpiti councillors agreed to a motion supporting lobby group Finish Our Road.

The motion was put to the full council meeting on May 26 by Ōtaki Ward councillor and transport portfolio holder James Cootes.

Agreed unanimously, it “supports in principle investment by Waka Kotahi to provide south-facing connectivity at Peka Peka to make best use of the expressway investment, improve safety and avoid the costs to the community of using local roads; and to that end agrees to include this issue and the further impacts of ongoing growth in the North Waikanae, Peka Peka and Te Horo areas in the KCDC Growth Strategy.”

Councillors also agreed to support “ongoing work by the community to identify errors and inadequacies in the Waka Kotahi business case” and agree to register “an interest with Waka Kotahi for a future public works requirement for any surplus land associated with the proposed Peka Peka interchange”.

A spokesperson for Finish Our Road (FOR), Jenny Askwith, says the group is pleased the council has given unanimous support to the motion.



INTERCHANGE: Finish Our Road wants an interchange near where this SH1 bridge crosses over the expressway at Peka Peka.

Photo Ōtaki Today

“It has taken a long time to get to this point, but it gives a clear message that council does now fully support a full Peka Peka interchange and will support FOR in its lobbying of central government to achieve south-facing connectivity at Peka Peka,” Jenny says. “Waikanae and north is a large growth area in the Kāpiti region and when the PP2Ō expressway opens, there will be conservatively an extra 2300 vehicle movements a day spilling onto the local Waikanae streets from the Peka Peka and Te Horo areas, which would be totally avoidable if they had access to the purpose-built expressway at Peka Peka.”

She says it’s become even more critical to have a south-facing access

at Peka Peka, as the recent Budget did not include funding for a Capital Connection train upgrade, which would encourage public transport.

“In an area where there is no public transport option for many years to come, to expect Te Horo and Peka Peka residents to travel either north to Ōtaki, or through the urban streets of Waikanae to access the expressway southwards, is unacceptable in a time when we are meant to be reducing our carbon footprint and making our roads safer.”

Cr Cootes agrees there are good arguments for south-facing connectivity at Peka Peka.

“The group [FOR] pointed out that many aspects of the business

case, which Waka Kotahi based their decision on, were flawed and the costs grossly overstated.

“South-facing connectivity would greatly reduce the use of local roads to access the expressway, bring safety and environmental benefits by reducing traffic through Waikanae’s local road network, and service the current and future growth in the northern parts of Kāpiti.”

He says modern expressways are making the network safer and should be used as much as possible to get traffic off local roads.

“We’ve seen with the Mackays to Peka Peka expressway a significant reduction in deaths and serious injuries because of its improved

safety design. So from a Road to Zero perspective, it makes sense to use the expressways over local roads.

“Nationally we’ve also seen a significant uptake in electric and hybrid vehicle sales so while we do need to see investment in our public transport options we can’t do that at the expense of a safe and effective road network.”

The saga began in January 2019 when Waka Kotahi said it would not be building an interchange on the expressway. That decision was based on a business case that in part said the area was “void of employment, business or significant tourism activity”.

It also said projected growth in the area didn’t justify an interchange.

FOR was established and quickly suggested the business case was flawed and had several errors. The Ōtaki and Waikanae community boards passed motions of support which were then placed on the council agenda for May 23, 2019.

The motions were put to the council but instead of recommending the motion, the council simply “noted” it.

During this delay, FOR acknowledged that council staff and James had continued to support the group’s actions through several meetings and the supply of technical information.



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Clams back on the beach

from front page

“The surf clam fishery has one of the largest potentials in New Zealand that remains underdeveloped. In these Covid times of economic recovery, it’s very important for iwi among others in New Zealand Inc, that this kind of resource – for which they’ve had no return in the past – is able to bring benefits such as jobs and regional development.”

He said iwi would be interested, for example, in owning their own boats in a joint venture.

“The benefits far outweigh any perception that someone’s coming in and raiding the resource and inhibiting locals’ ability to fish in my own backyard”

MPI says surf clams are managed within the Quota Management System, which sets catch limits and allowances on fishers to promote sustainable use of the resource.

“We can confirm that Cloudy Bay Clams Limited hold a current fishing permit allowing them to fish in New Zealand waters,” Emma Taylor, the director fisheries management, Fisheries New Zealand, told *Ōtaki Today*.

Fisheries New Zealand sets total allowable commercial catch limits for commercially harvested species, including surf clams, and all commercial fishers must fish within these settings.



HARVESTING: A clam boat operating close to shore at Waikawa Beach, just north of Ōtaki, in 2020. These boats are permitted to operate in shallow water, because that’s where the clams are.

Photo Miraz Jordan

In addition to catch limits, there are strict rules around where surf clams can be commercially harvested. Fishers can only dredge for surf clams intended for human consumption within preapproved “sanitation zones” (a map of these areas can be found by looking for “bivalve fish” at

mpi.maps.arcgis.com).

As surf clams are found in the shallows, boats are allowed to fish in shallow water close to beaches.

The position of all commercial fishing vessels (including boats that dredge) is monitored electronically in real time and fishers are required

to report their catch electronically to MPI each day they are fishing.

Emma says it’s not uncommon for surf clams to wash up naturally on beaches.

“Surf clams can be affected by a range of natural causes such as storms, high temperatures and low

oxygen levels during calm summer periods, algal blooms, and excessive freshwater outflow.”

She says studies have also shown that surf clams tend to have higher mortality along the Kāpiti-Horowhenua coast compared to other areas in New Zealand. It might be due to this coast being more exposed, making the chance of shells being eroded out of the bed by storms much higher.

Fisheries New Zealand monitors the area and research is planned to further understand the effects of commercial fishing on these shellfish. The results of this study are expected to be available by early 2023.

After similar concerns about the harvesting in early 2020 – and after the clam boat had been sighted close to shore during the Ōtaki Kite Festival – Kāpiti Mayor K Gurunathan negotiated a moratorium on clam harvesting with Cloudy Bay.

It’s understood there were some Zoom meetings – necessary because of Covid restrictions at the time – but the issues have arisen again with sightings of the big number of shells on the beach. Mayor Guru told *Ōtaki Today* that after the latest influx of clams on the beach, he was requesting another meeting with Cloudy Bay.

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SCHOLARS: The three visiting Ōtaki Scholars from Robert Gordon’s College, from left, Anish Subramaniam (2021-22), Angus Jack (2020-21) and Patrick Robinson (2019-20). Above right is Ōtaki College’s 2021 Everiss Scholar, Krishna Modi. Photos supplied

Three scholars to visit in July

For the first time in its 85-year history, three Ōtaki Scholars are visiting New Zealand at the same time, beginning on July 13.

Two of them – Angus Jack and Patrick Robinson – were unable to travel for the annual scholarship in 2020 and 2021 because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The third, Anish Subramaniam, is the 2022 Ōtaki Scholar.

The scholarship has been awarded to the head boy of Robert Gordon’s College in Aberdeen, Scotland, since 1937. A reciprocal scholarship, now known as the Everiss Scholarship, is awarded annually to an Ōtaki College student. The inaugural Everiss Scholar was 2021 dux Krishna Modi, who was also unable to travel last year.

Along with the 2022 scholar, to be announced at the college prize-giving in

November, Krishna will travel to the United Kingdom, visiting Robert Gordon’s College and other places of interest.

This year’s Ōtaki Scholar, Anish Subramaniam, has applied to study medicine at university. He plays the violin and piano, and sings in the school’s chamber choir. Being a keen debater, he has represented Robert Gordon’s College at both local and national competitions, winning “best speaker” on several occasions.

Anish has also been involved with the college’s student council, sustainability group and Medical Ethics Society. He plays cricket and badminton, and has represented Scotland at chess.

The 2020-21 scholar, Angus Jack, has gone on to study accountancy at the University of Glasgow. At university he plays rugby and enjoys going to the gym.

Angus is delighted the Ōtaki trip is able to go ahead after the lifting of Covid travel restrictions.

He says he is looking forward to visiting New Zealand to experience the rich culture, meet new people and make connections, as well as seeing the scenery the country has to offer.

The 2019-21 scholar, Patrick Robinson, is now a second year medical student at the University of Edinburgh, having started university in the peak of the pandemic in Scotland. He was supposed to travel to New Zealand in the (northern) summer of 2020.

He enjoys running and watching rugby, and in the summer he likes surfing. He is excited to visit New Zealand in July and learn about the country’s culture. With an interest in biology and ecology, he is eager to see New Zealand’s unique wildlife.

Stronger voice for mana whenua

Mana whenua are to get a stronger voice at Kāpiti Coast District Council after getting appointments and voting rights on some council committees.

From July 1, one representative from each of the three iwi mana whenua – including Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki, Ngāti Toa Rangātira, and Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust – will be appointed to the council’s Strategy and Operations Committee, Appeals Hearing Committee, and the Grants Allocation Subcommittee, with full voting rights.

Mayor K Gurnathan says the decision supports a commitment made in the council’s 2021-41 Long-term Plan for mana whenua and council to have a “mutually mana-enhancing partnership that honours the Crown’s Treaty obligations”.

The council also resolved to extend a seat at all council meetings to representatives from the three iwi.

The mayor says Kāpiti Coast District Council has a long history of Māori representation and input into matters of local governance, having signed a *Memorandum of Partnership* in 1994 with the three Kāpiti Coast District mana whenua iwi.

“While by law iwi representatives can’t have voting rights at our council meetings, they will be able to fully contribute to our discussions and share important perspectives,” Guru says. “This will lead to better decision-making and is in line with the approach being taken by councils across Aotearoa.

“An iwi representative with the relevant skills and experience will also be appointed to the Audit and Risk Subcommittee through a formal recruitment and selection process, further strengthening our governance capability.”

The council recently considered Māori representation as part of its representation review, but on the advice of all three iwi partners, it resolved not to establish a Māori ward ahead of the upcoming 2022 elections.

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Old steam, new expressway

An old steam locomotive took train enthusiasts and those curious about the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway for a ride on Sunday, June 5.

Neither group would have been disappointed. On three trips during the day between Paraparaumu and Manakau, the loco – diesel engine at the rear to haul it back south – took passengers in old carriages on a journey with a glimpse of the future.

Passengers could see progress on the expressway that is soon to link with the Kāpiti

expressway in the south, and the current State Highway 1 just north of Ōtaki.

Most impressive were the nine bridges built and ready for traffic, the biggest across the Ōtaki River. There were also culverts and new wetlands already populated with wildlife.

PP2Ō construction manager Steve Finlay provided a running commentary as the landmarks were passed.

The excursion, with trains operated by Steam Incorporated at Paekākāriki, provided a view of the Ōtaki district never seen from the road.

FROM THE TRAIN: Above left, a view of the current Ōtaki River bridge from the railway bridge, top left the new expressway bridge over the river, top above the new expressway bridge over the Waitohu Stream, and above a view from the train of the northern-most lake in the Forest Lakes area.

Photos Ōtaki Today

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SURPRISE: Actor Jim Moriarty surprises Xiaolu Bai Te Kira while talking with head students Kaea Hakaraia-Hosking and Tia-Te Raukura Brown during his visit to Ōtaki on Monday (June 13).
Photo Ōtaki Today

Famed actor works with students

Students of Ōtaki College, Te Kura-a-Iwi O Whakatupuranga Rua Mano and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Rito are working together under the direction of famed Kiwi actor and director Jim Moriarty on a theatre production of *The Battalion*.

Ōtaki College dance and drama teacher Tamsin Dashfield-Speight says making the production – with the assistance of Creative NZ funding – is an amazing opportunity for the students to work with Jim and his theatre company, Te Rākau.

“It’s one of New Zealand’s finest theatre companies,” Tamsin says. “The project is designed to bring the stories of the Māori Battalion to Ōtaki, performed by our young people.”

The Battalion is a powerful story about loss of innocence, comradeship, whānau, adventure, loyalty, sacrifice, love, and ultimately, healing set during the Second World War. Many members of the Māori Battalion were as young as 15 when they went to war. Many Ōtaki whānau have direct links to the battalion.

“Te Rākau are coming to the Ōtaki community and working with local rangatahi in a holistic, kaupapa Māori theatre process, to produce a high quality performance that will engage, challenge and excite,” Tamsin says.

The production will be performed in mid October, with tickets on sale next term.

On Monday (June 13), Jim Moriarty and members of Te Rākau Theatre Company visited Ōtaki to speak to the three schools about the project.

Nikau Foundation gives \$28k for Ōtaki

Nikau Foundation has given almost \$28,000 to community organisations supporting the Ōtaki community during its 2022 grants round.

It gave out almost \$90,000 throughout the Kāpiti district.

Nikau Foundation’s 2022 funding in Ōtaki includes:

- a \$7000 grant to Energise Ōtaki Charitable Trust
- a \$7500 grant for Ōtaki College to help develop its educational garden
- \$3750 to the Mirek Smizek Arts Trust to help with a new pottery centre in Te Horo
- a \$3669 grant to Zero Waste Ōtaki
- \$3600 to Te Rito o te Kura Charitable Trust to develop its food forest, and
- \$3000 to help fund floodlighting for Ōtaki Sports Club.

“We are delighted to be able to grow our impact this year by partnering with more Ōtaki organisations than ever before,” says Nikau Foundation executive director Em Lewis. “We have been blown away by the innovation, community-focused solutions, and creativity taking place locally from environmental projects to the development of community gardens, and are so proud to be supporting some of these vital initiatives.”

She says funding this year reflected Nikau’s knowledge and connection with its local communities.

“We really listen to the needs of local community organisations so we can support them in the most impactful ways. We’re here to make a positive difference

for the people and places of Ōtaki.”

For Energise Ōtaki, securing the funding meant safeguarding its plans for growth by hiring a part-time coordinator and communications lead.

“Our biggest focus is to build capacity and strengthen our operational structures so we can continue to work towards our vision,” chair Leigh Ramsay says. “For us, this funding is invaluable. It has allowed us to free up the time of trustees so they can focus on the big picture and get more of our projects off the ground.”

After the Rotary Club of Ōtaki Fund was established last year, the first grants were given out this year, in line with the fund’s vision of supporting the community in many ways.

One of these grants was given to support the Ōtaki Sports Club floodlight installation.

“Organised sports provide many benefits for the community, including health, increased well-being, and encouraging sociality,” says Ōtaki Rotary chair Adrian Gregory. “By helping to fund this floodlighting, the whole community will be able to reap these benefits all-year round.”

Another \$1000 from the Ōtaki fund was to buy books for the Alan Duff Charitable Foundation’s Books in Homes scheme.

■ See nikaufoundation.nz

Preparing your property to achieve the best result



Property staging

Involving a professional home staging company in the styling of your property can be an effective way of maximizing your sale price. These professionals can **ensure the benefits of your property are emphasized** with their astute eye for detail. They can especially excel when presenting a vacant property.



It’s all about the light

Let in as much natural light as you can. Also, high wattage bulbs make a space feel larger and soft lighting adds warmth.



First impressions

Potential buyers look for kerb appeal. Give your house a fresh coat of paint and your lawn a manicure before showing.



Clear the clutter

You’ll need to be ready to show your house anytime. **Keep the home tidy** so that you don’t have to frantically clean when the time comes.



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Sales Consultant

022 317 7613

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Thinking of selling?
Let's talk.

Māoriland Film Festival 2022

SPECIAL EVENTS

Among all the activities at MFF2022 are many special events. Some are listed below.

The Lion King Reo Māori: Disney's epic adventure reversioned to te reo Māori by Matewa Media. 6pm, Wednesday June 29, Ngā Purapura.

Opening night screening: The Drover's Wife. Leah Purcell writes, directs and stars in this adaptation of her award-winning play and novel – a vivid reckoning with Australia's colonial history through the tale of one woman's resilience. 8.15pm, Wednesday June 29, Ngā Purapura.

Free whānau film: Tama Kaiātea (Astro Kid). The French animated feature film reversioned into te reo Māori at the Māoriland Hub. A fun adventure on a distant planet! 5.30pm Thursday June 30, Ngā Purapura.

He Waiora: Premiere of the Ngā Pakiaka Incubator Programme. Eight short films by young filmmakers developed through Māoriland's Ngā Pakiaka Incubator Programme. He Waiora covers a range of topics close to the hearts of rangatahi and their whānau. 7.30 pm Thursday June 30, Civic Theatre; and schools screening 9.30am Friday July 1, Memorial Hall.

Toi Matarau presents Toi Te Mana: An evening of films celebrating the artist. Featuring films from Aotearoa and around the Indigenous world, Toi Te Mana discusses how climate, colonisation, culture and life experiences influence art. From 6 pm, Friday July 1, Māoriland Hub.

Whina: The biopic of the celebrated Dame Whina Cooper reveals the personal character of a woman who devoted a long life to the service of Māori. 8.15pm, Saturday July 2, Memorial Hall.

Keynote address by Te Waihoroi Shortland: A personal and historical perspective given by a prominent Māori filmmaker. 4.30pm, Sunday July 3, Rangiatea Church.

Closing night screening: Whetū Mārama. What Sir Edmund Hillary did on Everest, Sir Hekenukumai Busby has done in reclaiming the lost art of traditional Māori voyaging. 6pm, Sunday July 3, Memorial Hall.

Red carpet party with Anna Coddington: Walk the red carpet and listen to musician Anna Coddington. "People's choice" film announced and spot prizes for best outfits. 8pm, Sunday July 3, Māoriland Hub.

Book through iTicket.co.nz

Libby's MNZM proves

Libby Hakaraia – MNZM for services to the film and media industries.

The Ōtaki woman who was told by the head nun at her school that she would never be make anything of herself "because you're Māori", has been recognised in the Queen's Birthday and Platinum Jubilee honours as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM).

Libby Hakaraia says the comment shocked her.

"It was the first time I really realised that things weren't good for Māori," she says.

Libby is a 30-year veteran of broadcasting and media, having produced and directed current affairs programmes, documentaries, arts and entertainment programmes, and short and feature films.

However, during the past 10 years, Libby has devoted her life and energy to the Ōtaki-based Māoriland Film Festival, and the many related activities associated with the Māoriland Charitable Trust.

The former Edhouse's department

store in Main Street is now the Māoriland Hub, of which Libby is executive director. It's where there's a multi-purpose cinema, the Toi Matarau arts gallery and a community garden. Rangatahi learn film-making and are given opportunities to create stories and connect with indigenous storytellers internationally.

The ninth annual Māoriland Film Festival is due to start on June 29.

Libby began her career straight out of school as a radio reporter. One of her first assignments was to cover the Edgecumbe earthquake in 1987. Not knowing the area, she drove the wrong way in a storm and ended up in Te Tiko.

"I just followed my instincts and had a look around," she says. "Then we found out the town was closed off. It was the epicentre of the quake and I was one of only two journalists in the area. I was talking to news organisations all over the world."

It led to three job offers. She took one with a top FM station in Auckland.

"I thought I'd really made it. But it wasn't that at all. They didn't value any Māori stories and I was really aware there wasn't space for them."

At the time, Ngā Tamatoa activists were campaigning for Māori rights, which created plenty of news stories. What Libby found was that having a Māori surname allowed her access to many of the stories no one could tell. It didn't mean those stories got air time.

"If I wrote a story that had a different point of view than what other journalists were writing, I literally had the copy ripped up in front of me. I didn't think it was fair and the story wasn't being told."

Then two of the most influential people in her life emerged out of the blue.

Libby was invited by Haare Williams to a lunch, which was also attended by Henare te Ua. They invited her to join them to head their newsroom in a six-month pilot of the first iwi radio network. She took the job.

"I was only about 18, but I was really interested in how a Māori radio station would work and how it would be different. Those two men were patient with me, and they believed in me."

She later moved to the ABC in Australia for seven years, and did

Award-winning Ward-Lealand short film at festival

A short film directed by veteran New Zealand actor Jennifer Ward-Lealand that is to show at the Māoriland Film Festival has won best film by audience vote at the Wairoa Film Festival.

It's the first film in which Jennifer has taken a directing role.

Disrupt delves into the devastating effects of methamphetamine on a whānau when a grandmother is the only person who refuses to give up on her drug-addicted grandson. It's the film directing debut for Jennifer who is one of New Zealand's most accomplished actors and industry advocates.

The film won the Tinirau Prize, which was voted by the audience who attended the screening of a selection of the best Māori short films at the Gaitery Theatre in Wairoa. The award was donated by long-time broadcaster Derek Fox and Jaewynn Mackay.

It is scheduled to show as one of the short films at Maoriland on Thursday, June 30.

The 13-minute story is written by journalist Aroha Awarau and produced by Māori Television news presenter Peata Melbourne under her new production company, Te Koru Media. The cast includes Kararaina Rangihau, Joe Dekkers-Reihana, Ella Edward, Miriama McDowell, and Piripi Taylor.

Disrupt also screened at the Beverly Hills International Film Festival in Los Angeles at the same time as it was playing at Wairoa.

Jennifer says the award shows that the

audience has resonated with the film's important message.

"The audience responding so positively to our film affirms for us the very reason we wanted to make *Disrupt*, to see how one family tries to deal with what is a huge problem throughout Aotearoa. It's often the small, personal story that can affect the biggest change," she says.

Peata Melbourne chose *Disrupt* as her first film as a producer because she wanted to highlight the growing problem of P in all communities. She attributes the aroha from the cast, crew, funders, sponsors, and supporters as the reason for the film's success.

"Our supporters believed in us to make it. This win is for them. We were blessed with our superb and very talented cast and care. I'm proud and grateful for the contribution from each and every one of them."

Aroha Awarau says he was inspired to write the film after covering many stories on the P epidemic as a print and TV journalist, and saw first-hand how the drug had a strong grip on his own whānau.

"I find a lot of films or narratives surrounding drugs, P in particular, are quite glamorized. So, they're set in the gang world or on the streets. And what I had seen is that this problem is actually



ON SET: Director Jennifer Ward-Lealand on set for the filming of *Disrupt*, which will show at the Māoriland Film Festival on June 30. Photo supplied

closer to home for most people," he says.

The film was funded by Ngā Aho Whakaari, an organisation advocating for Māori working in the screen industry, and supporters who donated to the film via Boosted, a New Zealand crowdfunding site dedicated to the arts. The film was also sponsored by Image Zone, Cordis Hotel and Resorts, Nati 4 Life, St John's Ambulance and Wireless Rentals.

Disrupt also screened at the New Zealand and Hawaii international film festivals in 2021.

■ See opposite for full programme

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nun got it wrong

an OE as a crew member on yachts. But on a trip home she interviewed Henare on National Radio. It led to her being shoulder-tapped by Sharron Crosbie to work with him for seven more years on National Radio’s Māori magazine show, *Whenua*.

In the late 1990s Libby took her first foray into screen productions, directing and producing a wide range of documentaries, many from a Māori perspective.

However, the lure of her ancestral home in Ōtaki was always present. She established Blue Bach Productions, which included in its portfolio 26 episodes of Māori Television series *Tatai Hono*. But there was always something else she wanted to do.

Along with partner and veteran producer Tainui Stephens, Libby founded the Māoriland Film Festival in 2014, supported by many whanau who offered their time voluntarily at first.

“Māoriland is a whanau initiative. It’s in a town that’s driven by a wider vision, which is Whakatupuranga Rua Mano. We’re a part of what’s already been laid out for us. We’re part of a vision that benefits the whole community. When we first

“Māoriland is a whanau initiative. It’s in a town that’s driven by a wider vision, which is Whakatupuranga Rua Mano. We’re a part of what’s already been laid out for us. We’re part of a vision that benefits the whole community. When we first started, we wanted to see cultural, social and economic benefits for our community. What would otherwise be the point?”

– Libby Hakaraia MNZM

started, we wanted to see cultural, social and economic benefits for our community.

“What would otherwise be the point?

This is where we belong. I’m wasn’t going to come back here to fail – by that I mean I didn’t want to discredit my whanau and my hapū.”

It’s been suggested that Māoriland has become too big for Ōtaki, and that it should move to Wellington, for example.

Libby is adamant that it couldn’t be transferred anywhere else. It’s one of

the reasons Māoriland was set up as a social enterprise, under a charitable trust, rather than as a commercial operation.

“I just couldn’t see it working anywhere else.”

- Also honoured, with a Queen’s Service Medal (QSM), was Larry Morgan, for services to canoe sports and viticulture. Larry grew up in Ōtaki and for a time was a teacher at Ōtaki College. He now lives in Napier. See the July issue of *Ōtaki Today* for details.

MNZM: Libby Hakaraia MNZM, founder of the Māoriland Film Festival.

Photo Ōtaki Today



Māoriland Film Festival 2022 Timetable

	Civic Theatre	Māoriland Hub	Memorial Hall	Ngā Purapura	Rangiatea
RAAPA - WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE					
6:00 PM				6:00 PM The Lion King Reo Maori (G) (Aotearoa)	
8:00 PM				8:15 PM The Drovers Wife: The Legend of Molly Johnson (M) (Australia)	
RAPARE - THURSDAY 30 JUNE					
9:00 AM				9:30 AM MRFF - E Tū Whānau Rangatahi Film Awards	
10:00 AM	10:00 AM Whakapapa Shorts		10:30 AM Tote Abuelo (Grandfather) (Mexico)		
12:00 PM	12:00 PM Whānau Shorts (M)		12:30 PM Our Story - The Indigenous Led Fight to Protect Greater Chaco (USA)		
2:00 PM	2:00 PM Aotearoa Shorts (M)		2:30 PM Spirit of the Peaks (USA)		
3:00 PM					
5:00 PM				5:30 PM FREE WHĀNAU SCREENING: Tama Kaiātea (PG)	
6:00 PM			6:30 PM Portraits From A Fire (Canada)		
7:00 PM	7:30 PM He Waiora - premiere of the Ngā Pakiaka Incubator Programme		8:30 PM Waikiki (USA)		
8:00 PM					
9:00 PM					
RAMERE - FRIDAY 1 JULY					
9:00 AM			9:30 AM MRFF - He Waiora - Schools Screening (13 +)		
10:00 AM	10:00 AM Te Pūtunga o te Hinu (Aotearoa)			10:00 AM - MRFF - Tama Kaiātea (PG)	
11:00 AM		11:00 AM NATIVE Minds: Te Haumarutanga O Nga Mahi			
12:00 PM	12:30 PM Wairua Shorts		12:00 PM MRFF - Rangatahi Workshop - The Reciprocity Project		
2:00 PM	2:30 PM Dancing Through (Canada)	2:00 PM NATIVE Minds: Is Collaboration Our Superpower?			
5:00 PM			5:00 PM Bingo Shorts		
6:00 PM	6:30 PM Ablaze (Australia)	6:00 PM Toi Matarau presents Toi Te Mana			
7:00 PM			7:00 PM Millie Lies Low (M) (Aotearoa)		
8:00 PM	8:30 PM Night Raiders (M) (Canada)				
RAHOROI - SATURDAY 2 JULY					
10:00 AM	10:30 AM Sietefilos (Seven Ridges) (Mexico)				
11:00 AM			11:00 AM Whenua Shorts		
12:00 PM	12:00 PM ЁIT (Yakut)				
1:00 PM		1:30 PM NATIVE Minds: Kaitiakitanga in the Film Industry	1:30 PM Pa’astay (Taiwan)		
2:00 PM	2:30 PM Coming Home In The Dark (R16) (Aotearoa)				
5:00 PM			5:00 PM Rohe Kōreporepo The Swamp The Sacred Place (Aotearoa)		
6:00 PM	6:30 PM Every Day In Kaimuki (Hawaii)				
8:00 PM			8:15 PM Whina (PG) (Aotearoa)		
RATAPU - SUNDAY 3 JULY					
10:00 AM	10:30 AM Odisea Amazonica (Peru)		10:00 AM Te Hononga		
11:00 AM		11:00 AM NATIVE Minds: Whina, Liferights & Responsibility			
12:00 PM	12:00 PM Precious Leader Woman (Canada)		12:15 PM Mai ano, mai ano he wai aroha te wairua: The Spiritual Constant		
1:00 PM	1:30 PM Kimmapiiyipitssini: The Meaning of Empathy (Canada)				
2:00 PM			2:45 PM Beans (Canada)		
4:00 PM					4:30 PM Māoriland Keynote Address - Te Waihoroi Shortland
6:00 PM			6:30 PM Whetū Marama (Aotearoa)		
8:00 PM		8:00 PM Māoriland Red Carpet Party - Anna Coddington			

Donated supplies aid foodbank

By Michael Moore

Lucy Tahere was overwhelmed on a Wednesday morning in May as she opened the doors to the Ōtaki foodbank that she has managed for 26 years.

A van full to the brim of donated goods from the local community supplied 164 food bags, each valued at \$20. New World Ōtaki, which sponsored the local part of the supermarket chain's Family 2 Family programme, topped it up to 200 bags.

"This was a huge donation and we're so very grateful," Lucy told *Ōtaki Today*. "It comes just as winter is here and right now, there is a greater need."

New World Ōtaki owner Matt Mullins said he was delighted to support the community in such a practical way.

"It's all about helping a family in need, giving from one family to another, and our community has been amazing this year," Matt said.

Less than a third of people who access the foodbank are referred from Work & Income. From February to April 2022, 32 people used the service who are employed or on a minimum wage.

"There are many reasons why people come to us for support," Lucy says. "They tell us they have vehicle costs, rents and rates, and even school expenses for their children."

She says that lower income earners have often used up sick leave because of Covid-19.

"Work & Income have a stand-down period between applying for a grant entitlement," she says. "I would rather give parcels as I know where their wages



BIG HELP: Ōtaki Foodbank manager Lucy Tahere and New World Ōtaki owner Matt Mullins (right) and the supermarket's retail operations manager, Roger Beech-Pooley, with supplies donated to the foodbank.

Photo Michael Moore

are being spent through their bank statements, and we support these people until their situation has recovered.

"We have a rigorous application process, to make sure support goes to those who have a genuine need.

"We have also issued food parcels to grandparents with school-age grandchildren, and who are looking after their mokopuna at home during Covid isolations."

The foodbank welcomes non-

perishable products that are essential for families: canned goods and spreads, tea and coffee, rice and pasta.

"We also welcome soap, toothpaste, shampoo and sanitary products," Lucy says.

Donations and support are always welcome.

■ Ōtaki Foodbank, 43A Main St, 06 364-0051. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.30am-noon See foodbank.co.nz/otaki-foodbank

IN BRIEF

Housing consultation begins

Consultation on Kāpiti Coast District Council's proposal to get more people into affordable housing has opened. The council is proposing to establish an independent community land trust (CLT) that could work with iwi partners, other organisations and housing providers to provide affordable housing. As an independent not-for-profit organisation, a CLT is governed by a board of trustees made up of iwi, community members and professional representatives. (See pages 18-21 or visit haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/affordable-housing)

Funding for Te Horo arts centre

The Mirek Smíšek Arts Trust has received \$3750 from the Nikau Foundation, which will go towards the trust's \$150,000 target for set-up cash and donated equipment for its new arts centre. It has also received \$4500 from the KCDC Heritage Fund for bush restoration. The trust is developing a multi-cultural centre, creating a visitor attraction based around Mirek's unique beehive kilns at Te Horo. An artist (potter) in residence is also planned with accommodation in the former Te Horo railway station building.

Median house price stable

The median Ōtaki house price remained stable at \$780,000 in May, according to the latest homes.co.nz data. It's the first time in several years that the price has remained level for two consecutive months. The price estimate hit a high of \$800,000 in January. In the past three months, the median price has risen 2.8 percent, 5.5 percent in six months and 28.3 percent during the past 12 months.

Twenty call-outs for brigade

Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade has been busy early this month as storms continued to sweep through the Ōtaki district. In May, three of its 20 call-outs were storm related. A truck was also sent to help at Levin after a tornado hit on May 20. Of the 20 call-outs, nine were for private fire alarms; four to attend motor vehicle accidents; three "special services"; two to help cover other brigades; one was a medical emergency; and one was to attend a rubbish, grass or scrub fire.

We're seeking your ideas for a time capsule!

Much of what we know about our history has come from artefacts that tell stories of our ancestors.

If you could leave a piece of Ōtaki to be discovered by future generations - what would it be?

PP2Ō is seeking ideas for items to be included in a time capsule which will be placed underneath one of the Interchange Gateway Sculptures (gifted to the community as part of the project).

The time capsule theme is

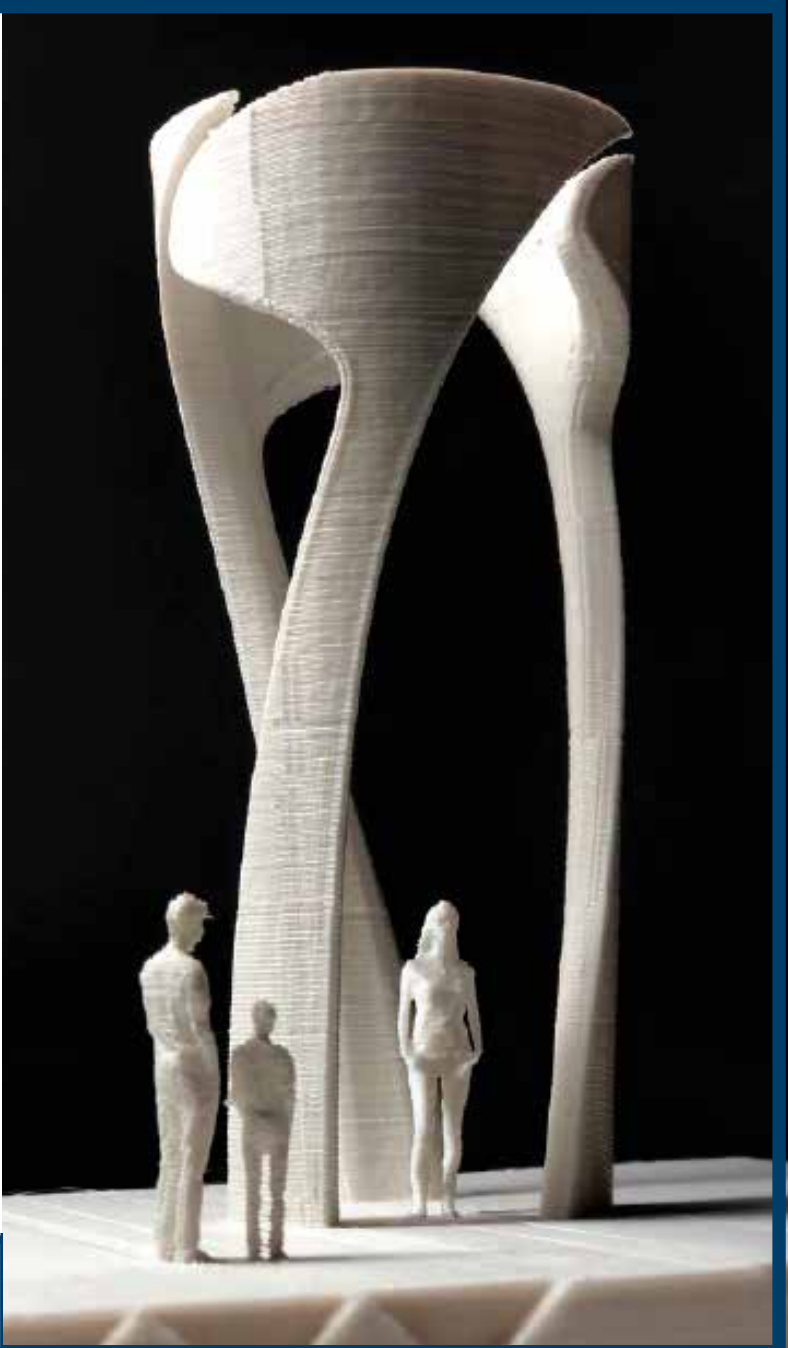
'Your Ōtaki - what Ōtaki means to you'.

This includes contemporary views, historic documents and artefacts that provide insights into how Ōtaki came to be the place it is today and what it means to the community.

Anything placed in the time capsule must be dry and non-perishable, so items made from materials like paper, plastic and glass may work best.

"Think broadly" is the request from the project team.

If you would like to submit an item to be considered for the time capsule, please email pp2o@nzta.govt.nz.



Manakau youngsters show writing talent

Students at Manakau School are showing they have impressive writing skills.

The teacher of Huia class (Year 7/8) Lorne Singer says he's lucky to have an engaged class of many talented students who learn from each other as much as from himself. "I have a number of young writers who are extraordinarily talented and writing at a level that would do well at higher secondary school levels," Lorne says.

Francesca Dale-Low, Austin Kendrick and Tane Thomsen stood out when the class was asked to produce some creative writing. Lorne sent several samples to *Ōtaki Today*.

"There are two samples in particular from one student [Austin] that I would like to share. It is fascinating that a 12-year-old has formed such strong feelings about what it is he perceives some

politicians to be like [see below]. I agree with many of his sentiments. "He has also written about a Covid experience using a 'show not tell' technique that we have been working on in relation to moment in time writing."

Ōtaki Today was impressed enough to reproduce some of the samples (this page), and editor Ian Carson visited the pupils at school.

Austin, Tane and Francesca said they weren't sure if they would have a writing career, but all being aged only 12, there's plenty of time and new writing to be done yet. As enthusiasts and competitors in various activities, their sporting skills appeared to excite them more at this stage of their lives.

They all said, however, that they enjoyed the experience of writing.



WRITERS: Manakau School writers, from left, Austin Kendrick, Francesca Dale-Low and Tane Thomsen. Photo Ōtaki Today

"I enjoy it, but we'll see where it goes," Tane said.

Francesca said she enjoyed the wide scope of creativity possible with

writing. And Austin said: "You can be alone with your computer and write whatever you want."

Collaborative poem

Farewell, below, is a collaborative poem by a five-person group of 11-12 year olds at Manakau School. The writing challenge was to construct a poem based around three randomly selected words within 30 minutes. Before this the class discussed the power of rhyme, rhythm and repetition. The words were farewell, jungle and ranch. This group decided to base their poem around climate change.

Sea levels risin'
Temperatures climbin'
Rain is peltin'
Ice caps meltin'
Glacier retreatin'
Jungle heatin'
Where will this lead?
It ain't fleetin'
Farewell

Writing samples

By Tane Thomsen

A trickle of slimy green water comes from a gash in the lifeless concrete roof. I felt like a rat, hiding from impending doom in my subterranean den. A lone candle flickered like a leaf in the wind, this is my only light. Life is no longer measured in years, every minute feels like it could be my last. A crusty loaf of bread is the only food that I have left, a rusty brown jug holds my only water. Only a few days ago I was playing in the golden brown fields of wheat, and now I'm trapped, buried alive by a pile of twisted metal and jagged concrete. My only hope is rescue, but in a

city suffering so much destruction, rescue seems a long way off.
(About a child in the ruins of Mariupol, Ukraine.)

By Austin Kendrick

*Fake morals.
The reasons you give are useless
Abuseful and distrustful
It's a lie and you know it
Don't pretend
Or try and hide it
You have me divided
Your fake morals
Your lies
You're a phony
Wearing a disguise*

*I believed you
Well I tried
Now I want to see you cry
You're a politician
Who says let cut down emissions
Stop abusing your position
Maybe work on living conditions not
When your enemies start dissin'
But your morals are fake
And your life is a lie
Put on your mask
Wear your disguise
See the humanity in our eyes
And tell us all your lies.
Tell us why you're perfect
Why you're worth it
Worth a try*

*Tell us why you should be no1
The top dog
Super guy
Hear us ask you questions and get indirect reply
Listen to the accusations
and then proceed to deny
Your truths are lies
Your rights are wrong
Your fake morals kept intact
So once again I'll tell you to tell the truth
And tell us why you shouldn't be sacked
So politician here's a mission to end your addiction to power
And to greed
Stop lying and saying that you're trying*

To stop watching us dying and show us what we need.

By Francesca Dale-Low

*Crunch. The shiny red skin had broken. A satisfied shiver ran through my body. My smile was evident, I wasn't trying to hide it. I was leaning over the fence, watching and observing, as it nudged through the juicy ripeness, contained in a ripe red skin, that sparkled like the sun on the sea. Peaceful sun-rays gently shine down on my face, that was contorted into a wide grin. The animal was finished eating and it wanted more, so I gave it more. I was happy here, I could stay here forever.
(About feeding a pig at an apple orchard.)*

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Coastal hazards – join the conversation

Coastal hazards like erosion and flooding due to sea level rise are having an increasing impact on coastal communities around Aotearoa New Zealand and the world, including our beautiful Kāpiti Coast.

The costs and social impacts affect all of us, so it's important our community contributes to discussions on how to respond.

The Takutai Kāpiti Coastal Advisory Panel has been asked to consider options for adapting to these coastal challenges. Informed by a range of experts, surveys, and studies, they will make recommendations on adaptation options to help Council manage coastal issues.

Community involvement in this work is crucial. The panel wants to hear from you about why our coast

matters to you and how you think they can best represent your views in our community response.

The panel is providing a range of ways for you to engage with them both in-person and online, with the first of several public information sessions on Saturday 23 July.

► **Have your say on how our coast matters to you and how the panel can represent you at haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/coastal or email the panel at coastal@kapiticoast.govt.nz**



The panel's role

Community input is needed to develop enduring solutions to increasing coastal hazards from sea level rise. The unpalatable alternative is a patchwork of short-term fixes that put council infrastructure and private property at risk. This just pushes the problem onto the next generation of ratepayers and residents.

The Takutai Kāpiti Coastal Advisory Panel is an independent and diverse group of locals supported by Council. They have been asked to listen to and represent the various perspectives of our many and varied Kāpiti Coast communities. This will give Council a rich understanding of the concerns of the community and the potential impacts of future decisions on options for adapting to sea level rise.

The panel hasn't been appointed to provide technical expertise on coastal hazards. For this, they'll be assisted by independent experts. The panel has to consider complex operational, policy, cultural, legal, and economic implications for the adaptation options they're looking at. The expert advisors are guiding them with briefings, technical reports, surveys, and studies presented at monthly workshops. The minutes and presentations are published on the Takutai Kāpiti website.

► **Read more and sign up to our e-newsletter at takutaikapiti.nz**

► **Have your say on how our coast matters to you and how the panel can represent you at haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/coastal**

Meet the Coastal Advisory Panel

Our panel are all Kāpiti Coast residents who are passionate about our district and our coast.

The make-up and role of the panel was co-designed by a working group of iwi, Coastal Ratepayers United, North Ōtaki Beach Residents' Group and the Waikanae Estuary Care Group, and local and regional council staff.

► Read the full biographies at kapiticoast.govt.nz/coastalpanel



Chair: Rt Hon Jim Bolger

Former Prime Minister and Ambassador to the United States with extensive governance experience.



Sir Jerry Mateparae

Former Governor-General, High Commissioner to the UK, and soldier



Olivia Bird

Victoria University Masters student in Ecological Restoration



Susie Mills

Local lawyer and dune restoration volunteer



Don Day

Engagement specialist and consultant



Kelvin Nixon

Business consultant and coach



Dr Martin Manning

Climate professor



Oriwia Mason

(Ngāti Raukawa ki Te Tonga, Kāi Tahu, Ngāti Kahu and Te Rarawa)

Iwi environmental management advisor



Heni Wirihana Te Rei

(Ngāti Raukawa, Toarangatira, Ngāti Whātua ki Orakei)

Aka Janey Wilson. Tumuaki of Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Rito.



Join the panel at a Kāpiti-wide public information event

Saturday 23 July 2022: 11am-2pm, Community Centre, 45 Ocean Road, Paraparaumu Beach

Talk to the coastal advisory panel

Panel members are attending locations and events around the district in June and July to hear directly from you. To join the online community board meetings email democracy.services@kapiticoast.govt.nz for the zoom link.

Paraparaumu

Saturday 11 June: 10am-12noon
Paraparaumu Library

Tuesday 5 July: 7pm (online)
Paraparaumu-Raumati Community Board

Saturday 9 July:
Paraparaumu Beach Market

Waikanae

Tuesday 14 June:
Mahara mid-week market

Tuesday 21 June: 7pm (online)
Waikanae Community Board

Saturday 16 July:
Waikanae community market (tbc)

Ōtaki

Saturday 18 June: 10am-12noon
Ōtaki Library

Sunday 19 June:
Ōtaki community market

Tuesday 21 June: 7pm (online)
Ōtaki Community Board

Paekākāriki

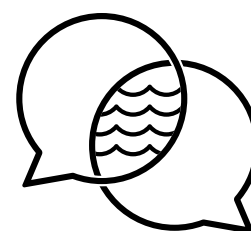
Tuesday 28 June: 7pm (online)
Paekākāriki Community Board

Saturday 2 July: Paekākāriki market

Te Horo

Sunday 3 July: Te Horo country market

► Check for changes at takutaikapiti.nz/schedule



Takutai Kapiti.
COASTAL ADVISORY PANEL

Matariki: Reclaiming lost traditions

It's 4.30am. I'm sitting on a blanket with my tuakana – my older brother – at the Ōtaki rivermouth.

The pre-dawn sky is a canvas of deep, inky black scattered with stars. A waning Korekore Rawea moon is its centrepiece, radiating soft, gentle light down upon us. The air is still, crisp, disturbed only by the regular thumping beat of the nearby tide.

"Me timata," my tuakana instructs. "I'll say a line, then you repeat it back to me."

A month later, with the faint cluster of nine stars in our sights, he and I recite the karakia he taught me that morning.

We invoke the name of Tāne-mahuta, who adorned the chest of Ranginui with starlight.

We call on dawn to break, to cloak the frosted peaks of Tararua.

We acknowledge the birds singing at the edge of the forests, who herald the rising of the sun. We embrace the chill of wind on our skin.

This is how we find ourselves. How we connect to the world around us. How we define our place in it.

This is how we welcome Matariki.

For the first time, Matariki will be celebrated as a public holiday this year on Friday, June 24.

I've been excited for this to happen ever since I got to review the Cabinet paper proposing to make the holiday official, when I still worked in government. Not because I want another day off work, but because I've been trying to make the celebration of Matariki a new tradition (or a revived tradition, rather) for my whānau for the last couple of years.

Formalising Matariki as a public holiday will only help to normalise it and encourage the celebration of it.

Why does this matter?

For me, reviving the traditions of Matariki is both a way of reclaiming what has been lost and celebrating what makes us Māori.

Most of our public holidays are imported, and practically all of them are, in some way, reminders of our colonisation: Christmas and Easter belong to the religions used as assimilation tools; Anzac Day is an exercise

in selective remembrance, failing to acknowledge the young Māori men who returned from a foreign war only to find that their lands had been acquired by the Crown and allocated by ballot to Pākehā soldiers; Queen's Birthday is a celebration of the same Crown, which failed to keep its promises in Te Tiriti o Waitangi



TAKI KUPU

TIHEMA BAKER



CLUSTER: The stars that herald Matariki towards the end of June every year.

– which is, of course, the point of Waitangi Day.

Matariki, on the other hand, is fundamentally Māori.

Its basis is in the maramataka, the lunar calendar by which Māori track the passing of time and the changing of seasons. Traditionally, it marked the end of a harvest season in preparation for the cold winter months ahead.

It was a time of reflection and grieving for those who had passed

in the previous year, but it was also a time of celebration, of enjoying the abundance of kai that had just been harvested, and of looking ahead to the future and the year to come.

Whether you're Māori, Pākehā, or tauwi, these things are worth celebrating.

The significance of doing so at Matariki is that it's grounded here, in this land – not borrowed from overseas, not informed by foreign values and beliefs.

It connects us to this place, to the way we see the cosmos, and where we stand in it.

The karakia taught to me by my tuakana, followed by a huge cooked breakfast of kai associated with the relevant stars, is how I intend to celebrate Matariki this year.

What about you?

■ Tihema is an uri of Raukawa te Au ki te Tonga, Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai, and Ngāti Toa Rangatira. He is a writer and consultant who grew up in Ōtaki.

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HUATAU/Comment

GURU'S VIEW: K GURUNATHAN

In the mix for funding, but local fears of unleashed market forces

Ōtaki has been shortlisted for a share of the \$1 billion Infrastructure Acceleration Fund.

Our \$28 million application is for a much-needed water storage facility. The original proposal was deferred in 2010 to help manage debt levels supporting projects in Paraparaumu. The storage facility will not only increase resilience in civil emergencies and firefighting, but also the main purpose of the fund – increase housing.

Given the fund is a Kainga Ora budget we can expect the greater capacity is to support “affordable” housing for the marginalised.

Deprivation, especially in the housing area, is highest in Ōtaki and particularly so among Māori. Housing



development has accelerated in Ōtaki but the high prices are largely unaffordable for locals and the new residents moving in are mostly from outside Ōtaki or the Kāpiti district.

Local iwi have already signalled their concern with the new central government legislation turbo-charging urban intensification. Iwi support the desperate need for good affordable housing, especially for their own in crowded rental dwellings where spiralling rent is pushing them

out of the district and away from their traditionally networked communities.

But they fear the Government’s legislation for greater and more blanket urban intensification will unleash market forces that will compromise the cultural space encompassing their Raukawa Marae, Rangiātea Church and the Wānanga.

They have also questioned the regional growth projections that have predicted Ōtaki to grow up to four times its current population of 4000. They have questioned the ability of the natural environment, especially the river catchment, to sustain this growth.

Council staff are working to interpret the Government’s legal directives to enable the protection of cultural space and the creation of papakainga

provisions in the District Plan. The creation of an independent community land trust will also facilitate council to partner with iwi and others to deliver truly affordable homes.

Another positive development is the creation of a food hub in Paraparaumu focused along Te Roto Drive. More than 30 food and beverage businesses are caucusing. Sustainable Foods Ltd, set up at Fonterra’s old cheese factory, is pioneering plant protein products. Council’s economic development team, and Kotahitanga, the strategic think tank, are helping them grow this vision to link a sustainable horticultural industry to create the raw supply chain for them.

Māori landowners in Otaki are looking at transitioning out of dairy

farming to regenerative horticulture and high-value cultivars. Funding application to the Ministry of Primary Industries’ Māori Agribusiness Group is pending. This paddock-to-plate link is critical to boost the value and sustainability of Ōtaki’s productive soils under threat from market forces converting rural land into housing subdivisions.

While the Government is soon to pass the NPS on Highly Productive Soils legislation, the best protection of our productive soils is through increasing the market value of these soils over the short-term profits of urban development.

■ *Guru is Kāpiti Coast Mayor*

THE ELECTORATE: TERISA NGOBI, MP

Budget offers more support for families

We’ve just released this year’s Budget, which sets out the next steps in our plan to build a secure future for New Zealand. This includes a cost of living package that will help ease the pressure for people here in Ōtaki.

Right now, our economy is in a strong position. Our strong health response protected our economy through Covid-19, and we’ve pulled through better than almost anywhere else in the world.

But we know that, despite these positive indicators, things are tough right now for many families, as global inflation impacts prices here at home.

That’s why in this year’s Budget we’ve included a comprehensive cost of living package. This package includes a new temporary payment to help Kiwis earning up to \$70,000 a year with higher food and power bills. It also includes an extension to our fuel tax cut, reduced road user charges and half-price public transport for a further two months, and we’re permanently halving public transport fares for people on low incomes.

Alongside these measures, we’re taking action on supermarkets to make sure Kiwis are paying a fair price at the checkout.

We’re calling on supermarkets to open up wholesale access for their competitors, at a fair price – or the Government will do it for them through law. Opening up wholesale access will make it easier for new competitors to enter the grocery market, and ensure fairer prices for Kiwis.

We’re appointing the Commerce Commission as an interim “grocery watchdog”, to review the grocery sector and keep supermarkets honest. We’re also introducing a mandatory code of conduct and compulsory unit pricing on grocery products to make it easier for consumers to compare prices.

It’s important we do what we can to take the hard edges off the global factors that are affecting us here in New Zealand, and these practical measures will help families here in the Ōtaki electorate and across the country.

There’s a lot more in the Budget that will benefit people here in Ōtaki, and if you’d like to know more, I’d encourage you to check out labour.org.nz/budget2022

■ *Terisa is MP for the Ōtaki electorate*



LOCAL LENS: JAMES COOTES

Housing: So much has changed since 2007

In 2007 when I was first elected, housing was barely discussed as an issue.

Council’s role at the time was mostly processing consents, developing district plans and managing our older persons housing units. You never heard of things like the housing continuum, housing affordability or even much about homelessness. Tiny homes weren’t a thing and rentals were “affordable”. Fifteen years later and housing is discussed almost weekly.

Recently we conducted a number of surveys that fed into our Housing Needs Assessment. That report has given us the robust information base we need for discussions with Government to enable a coordinated response to address the growing need. It will help council focus our efforts where they can make the biggest difference.

The survey results, although sobering, were not surprising, identifying Ōtaki as the area mostly affected, with high levels of deprivation and housing need. Following on from the Housing Needs Assessment we adopted a Housing Strategy that includes our vision and principles, the various types of roles we can play, and actions for the short, medium and long term, enabling us to prioritise investment and capitalise on partnership opportunities, manage risk and coordinate our



housing response.

All this work sat under our Growth Strategy, which outlined where growth should occur to ensure we had “good” managed growth. But that’s just all plans and words, I can hear you saying, and while you’d be right, the plans are strategic, helping ensure good outcomes. But more importantly we’ve added action to our words, purchasing the significant piece of land in Rangiuru Road, Ōtaki, for affordable housing. We’ve also progressed through to the next stage of the Government’s infrastructure fund that will likely see millions of dollars of funding for Ōtaki to increase our infrastructure and support housing (see mayor’s column above).

However, council has no intention of being a housing developer and we know that most ratepayers don’t want us to either. So, to enable development of more affordable homes we

looked at a range of “vehicles” to do this and are currently consulting on a Statement of Proposal (Sop) for an Affordable Housing Entity.

In the SoP, council is proposing to establish an independent community land trust (CLT) that, along with council, can work together with iwi partners and other organisations and providers to deliver affordable housing outcomes. A CLT is an independent, not-for-profit organisation governed by a board of trustees made up of iwi, community members and professional representatives. Its purpose is to provide permanent affordable housing opportunities for families and communities.

A CLT can hold land, transferred to it by council or acquired on its own, for the purpose of delivering affordable or social housing. The CLT can use this land to create affordable housing solutions in partnership with community housing providers and other organisations, that then develop houses on the land.

That’s what we’re doing . . . what can you do? If you want to be part of the solution its simple. Fill out the survey and support the work we’re doing to make a difference at <https://haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/affordable-housing>

■ *James is Ōtaki Ward Councillor*

ŌTAKI OUTLOOK: CHRIS PAPPS

Procrastination derails cash for much-needed trains

It’s 6am on a Friday morning and I’m pushing the editor’s deadline.

It’s raining and, much to the discomfort of our small dog, Roscoe, there’s lightning and thunder.

Leaving the column to the last minute is a good example of that old saying: “Never put off till tomorrow, what you can do today.” I knew when the deadline was but somehow there’s always been some reason not to start writing.

Which is a long way of getting to my point that Budget 2022 was, as with most Budgets, whoever presents them, a great disappointment to many people and particularly to people in Ōtaki. Why, when there’s a host of good reasons to get on with it, has the Government put off until some future date the really well argued and supported case for improvements to the Wellington to Palmerston North – and Wellington to Masterton – passenger rail services?

Why, when they are spending billions on addressing climate change, including some cockamamie scheme to subsidise low-income families into electric vehicles, did they not see fit to



put up less than \$400 million – not enough to build even half an expressway – to take lots of cars off the road and greatly improve public transport for the better part of the bottom half of the North Island?

It’s not like they didn’t know about it. It’s not like there wasn’t a really good business case with a cost/benefit ratio of something like \$1.83 for every dollar to be spent on the scheme. It’s not like every element of local government in Wellington, the Manawātū and Wairarapa was not in agreement with and fully supported it. Even their own party members support it.

Why have they put off until some tomorrow what they could easily have afforded and justified getting on with today?

For what it’s worth, I fully supported it and have

done for years. Ōtaki Community Board always has. Our district and regional councillors have put in a great deal of time, effort and lobbying. Maybe tomorrow we’ll get a result.

Next year is General Election year. Will that focus their minds?

Meanwhile, in a more immediate tomorrow, local government elections are in October. Mayor Guru has announced he will not be standing again. Thank you Guru for your efforts over the past two terms. Some seem to think the mayor is responsible for everything. You had only one vote but a very strong voice. I suspect your influence will continue to be felt in the future of Kāpiti.

Local papers and social media are beginning to reflect jockeying for position among councillors who see themselves as possible future mayors. Community board, ward and district council positions are all up for grabs.

As I said in an earlier column, beware candidates who “promise” to reduce the rates. The costs of running the district continue to increase. And we must plan for the future. Councils can’t put off till tomorrow what needs to be done today.

■ *Chris is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board*

An early test for democracy at Ōtaki College

Has there been a time, in the past 100 years, when democracy as a cornerstone of society has been so globally threatened as now?

Putin's incomprehensible invasion of Ukraine, Trump's gross attempts to subvert the United States electoral system and Boris Johnson's casual corruption likely take us back to the 1930s for any kinds of a parallel.

It perversely reminds me of something in my own dark past that plays a part in forming my views on authority and the role of democracy and citizens in decision making.

In the dimming light of my time as a student at Ōtaki College, a small number of us students plotted a regime overthrow. Well, that might be a tad exaggerated, but it was never-the-less schemed with the same gaze as one can imagine Hōne Heke plotting the demise of a flagpole at Kororāreka or Guy Fawkes' plan to blow up the House of Lords.

Among the student body of 1972, trouble brewed in some quarters. Unrest had been marinated by the daily news diet of the Vietnam War and other global unrest, and some in our baby-boomer generation sensed power transferring to younger shoulders.

The playground issues in the school were minor in comparison, but none-the-less embraced feelings on inequity and unfairness, arbitrarily handed down by authorities, some of whose stature was much

shorter than us. Issues fermented, such as indiscriminate caning of male students and student uniforms that were inadequate for winter conditions. But mostly, it was simply a plea for the students to have some kind of voice in decision making.

So, back to our student plot to blow up the House of Lords. We decided to set up a student body (Ōtaki College Student Council) that would meet monthly, with members elected from classes. I offered myself as chair and proceeded to

MEDIA & COMMUNITY



FRASER CARSON

preside over the systematic dismantling of all school authority.

The long list of demands, captured from each meeting, fell to me to write into a standard Collins A4 notebook, and plod along to the principal's office for immediate remedy. It was a screaming success (the notebook and principal's office) except that

we achieved absolutely zero. Zilch!

Then, with a bit of whispered encouragement from a few staff members, we cunningly set up a student newspaper called *Otacol*, which I edited. That way, the student council (chaired by me) could present the list of demands and *Otacol* (edited by me) could favourably report on such proceedings.

It was, of course, corruption on an industrial scale – akin to Jacinda taking over the editorship of TV One News and RNZ, or Guru commandeering this newspaper.

However suddenly, with each *Otacol* edition, there was some progress. "Selected" students were invited to discussions with the school management and there was some movement on issues, with a promise to keep dialogue going.

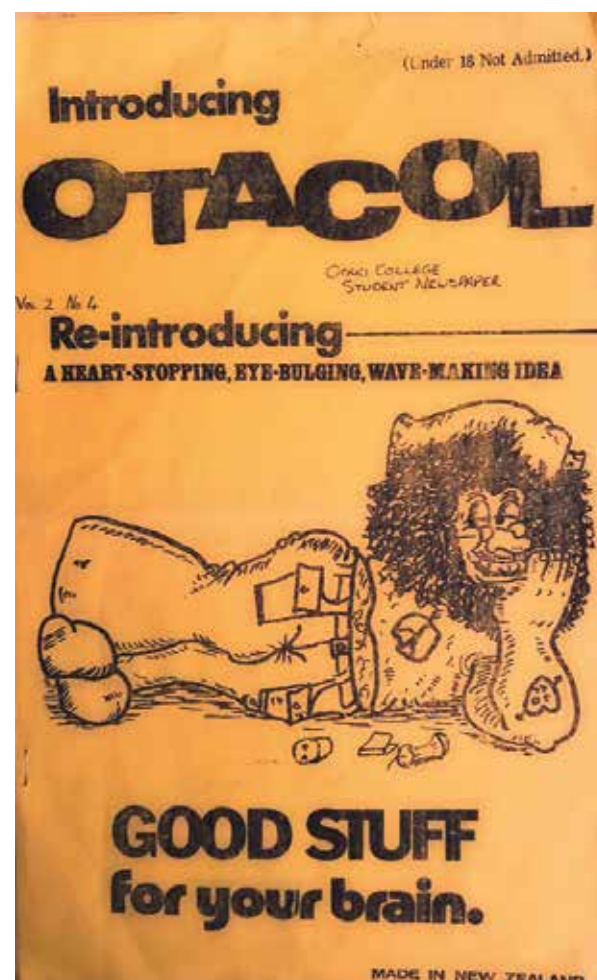
If there's a lesson in this, apart from the inadvisability of Soviet-style monopoly control of politics and media, it is this. A genuine citizen's voice, as an input into decision making, is essential in a healthy society. But it's generally not sufficient for groups to take a position in isolation, as our student body did. There needs to be clear channels of communication that lead to connectivity and the building of mutual trust, otherwise progress is likely minimal, or groups form as isolated fiefdoms that might assert pockets of power but have limited community-wide benefits.

In this column I've frequently written about "community building" as a way of re-establishing a coherent and robust civil society.

It's important, even though these are broad-brush and quite highfaluting notions. But there's nothing new about it – it's just that we seem to be slipping into the abyss of individualism and divisiveness, over collectivism, which is actually what democracy is about – the will of the majority.

No democracy can be perfect, but it's the best thing we have, and we should protect it with all we have.

■ Fraser is founder of the community development websites flightdec.com, knowthis.nz and inhub.org.nz



Volume 2, No 4 of the 1972 Ōtaki College magazine, *Otacol*. The student publication, based on radical university magazines of the time such as *Salient* and *Cracum*, provided a voice for college students that was not being heard by the college management.

Fraser Carson collection

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Let's talk housing

Kia ora Ōtaki,

Right across the district, we're facing significant and growing housing access and affordability issues. It's because of this that Council, as agreed with the community through consultation on our Long-term Plan 2021–41, is taking a bigger role in housing.

Over the past six months Council has commissioned and supported an assessment of the housing need in our district, researched ways it can help provide local solutions, had important and necessary conversations with Government, and adopted the *Kāpiti Coast District Council Housing Strategy 2022*.

What's clear is there is a lot of work to be done district-wide, but particularly in Ōtaki. Ōtaki is growing rapidly and will continue to grow as better transport links open up, such as the Peka Peka to Ōtaki (PP20) expressway. This is going to put more strain on a community that is already struggling to house its people.

With a lack of housing options, people are increasingly becoming stuck in unsuitable accommodation, being pushed out of their communities, or are left without access to a home. This has significant impacts on people's wellbeing.

One action from our strategy is to look at how we can help deliver affordable housing solutions locally. Following a review of different options, we're now consulting on our proposal for an affordable housing entity in the Kāpiti Coast District. I encourage you to read on and have your say.

Finally, housing is a complex issue and not solely the responsibility of one organisation or sector. A key part of our new strategy is to provide a foundation from which we can grow productive partnerships with iwi, the public sector, the community, developers, and individuals. We look forward to taking on this challenge together.

Read on to learn more about the mahi/work underway in the housing space, the need in Ōtaki and across the district, and how to have a say.

Toitū te whenua, toitū te wai, toitū te tāngata – toitū Kāpiti.



K Gurunathan
Mayor, Kāpiti Coast District



“What's clear is there is a lot of work to be done district-wide, but particularly in Ōtaki. Ōtaki is growing rapidly and will continue to grow as better transport links open up”



Discovering our true housing story

The *Kāpiti Coast Housing Needs Assessment 2022* (Housing Needs Assessment) looks at what's happening, and the impact of this on our community. In late 2021 and early 2022 we had over 1,500 people share their housing stories with us through community kōrero events, our community housing survey, and our business survey.

Our iwi partners, including Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki, also conducted their own assessments of the housing and social needs in their rohe to help shape decisions around housing and wellbeing.

The Housing Needs Assessment has given us the robust information base we need to inform ongoing discussions with Government as we seek increased funding and support to enable a coordinated response.

Currently, Kāpiti has 12% of the Wellington region's population but less than 3% of its public housing units.

Ōtaki's housing story in brief

The Housing Needs Assessment identified Ōtaki as having the highest level of housing need in the Kāpiti Coast, and the greatest affordability pressures on its residents. It also identified Ōtaki as having a passionate community and a strong iwi-led voice ready for collective change.

- Only 20% of renters in Ōtaki can affordably pay the median market rent, with only 2% able to buy a dwelling at the median market sale price.
- 28% of Ōtaki renters are considered 'extremely stressed', paying more than 50% of their income in rent.
- Ōtaki has the highest portion of households in the Kāpiti District earning less than \$50k per annum.
- Ōtaki's renter households have the highest proportion of crowded households in Kāpiti (10% of all renters)
- In 2021, the median property value in Ōtaki was between \$600k and \$650k.

- The least affordable locations in 2021 were Ōtaki and Waikanae. Mortgage cost as percentage of household income is 79% in Ōtaki and 78% in Waikanae.

The insights from Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki's housing needs assessment demonstrate a strong desire for whānau to stay in Ōtaki and the need for iwi-led solutions to fulfil housing aspirations and care for te taiao.

- nearly half of whānau have had to access support for living costs or have delayed payment of bills
- 2/3rds of those surveyed have interests in Māori land and would like to build papakāinga or housing with shared amenities
- each year more and more people are being displaced out of town, losing connections to critical support networks, hapū, and their marae.

[continued next page]

Read more

Read more about the housing need in Ōtaki and across the district at www.kapiticoast.govt.nz



[continued from previous page]

Our new Housing strategy

Informed by the housing needs assessment, the *Kāpiti Coast District Council Housing Strategy 2022* outlines the Council's direction for responding to housing challenges in the Kāpiti Coast. It includes a vision and principles, the various types of roles Council can play, and actions for the short, medium and long term.



Read the Housing Strategy at
www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/housing.



A domino effect

Housing stress is having a domino effect in Ōtaki, negatively impacting a range of wellbeing outcomes.

The issues are interconnected, but housing is often the first domino to fall, impacting people's whole lives and compounding issues that span generations.



Image credit: The Urban Advisory

The need

Our recent Housing Needs Assessment showed that, because of a lack of housing options in our district, people are increasingly becoming stuck in unsuitable accommodation, being pushed out of their communities, or are left without access to any accommodation at all.

A small snapshot of data from the Housing Needs Assessment indicates the scale of the challenge in Kāpiti:

Between 2001 and 2021:

House prices increased nearly **four times** faster than household incomes.

Lower quartile house price increased from **\$130,000 to \$696,000**.

Rents increased approximately **40%** faster than household incomes.

Lower quartile market rent is now **\$432 per week**.

Over **88% of renters are unable to affordably purchase a dwelling at the lower quartile house price of \$696,000**, and only **5% could affordably** service a mortgage associated with building a dwelling at the **median market sale prices in 2021** – down from 21% in 2001.

Housing stress in our district is extensive:

Demand for social housing has roughly doubled each year from 2016 to 2020 (from 13 families in March 2016, up to over 200 families in Oct 2020).

In 2021 mortgage cost as percentage of household income is **79%** in Ōtaki, **78%** in Waikanae and **72%** in Paraparaumu.

Read more about the district's housing need at
www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/housing



Our proposal for an affordable housing entity

Council is consulting on its proposal to establish an independent community land trust (CLT) that, along with Council, can work with iwi partners and other organisations to deliver affordable housing outcomes.

A CLT is an independent, not-for-profit organisation governed by a board of trustees made up of iwi, community members and professional representatives. Its purpose is to provide permanent affordable housing opportunities for families and communities.

A CLT can hold land, transferred to it by Council or acquired on its own, for the purpose of delivering affordable or social housing. The CLT can use this land to create affordable housing solutions in partnership with community housing providers and other organisations, that then develop houses on the land.

Some of the advantages of this proposal:

- A trust would be able to access a wider range of funding sources if it registered or partnered with a community housing provider.
- A trust would be able to partner with iwi and other organisations to deliver housing solutions.
- A trust can be structured to enable it to offer a wider range of housing services and tenure models, such as affordable rentals, rent to own and leasehold options.

Read more about our proposal, and the other entities we considered, at haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/affordable-housing

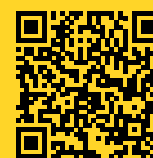


Have your say

We want your thoughts on our proposal.

Learn more and have your say online at
haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/affordable-housing

OR Pick up a copy of the *Statement of Proposal for an Affordable Housing Entity in the Kāpiti Coast* from your local library or Council service centre.



**Consultation
closes 5pm
Friday 8 July
2022**



HAUORA/Health

The power – or not – of ionised alkaline water

At the supermarket you can buy bottled alkaline water, online there are alkaline drops for adding to tap water to make your own alkaline water, and, if you really want to splurge out, you can buy an electrolytic machine that converts your tap water into ionised antioxidant alkaline water.

Websites talk of alkaline water balancing your body's pH, with claimed health benefits ranging from improved complexion, increased energy, weight loss, and strengthened immune system, through to the bolder claims of treating diseases such as diabetes and cancer.

Exactly what are the health benefits of alkaline water?

The trend for alkaline water is riding on the coattails of the alkaline diet, which is based on the premise that the modern Western diet is high in acid-forming foods that create an acidic (low pH) body which, in turn, is the cause of many diseases. It's proposed that alkaline-forming foods can correct this problem.

Despite the popularity of the alkaline diet the theory lacks scientific support; the body tightly controls blood pH to always be in the narrow range of 7.35 to 7.45 (slightly alkaline) for survival, and diet doesn't significantly influence this closely regulated system.

Let's see what happens when we use one of the more popular alkaline drops on the market: Alkalife Alkaline pH Booster drops. The makers claim it is "backed by years of research and development", though surely it doesn't take much research to come up with a 9 percent caustic solution (a mix of potassium hydroxide and sodium hydroxide) in a 37ml dropper bottle.

Four pH Booster drops added to a glass of tap water transforms it into alkaline (pH 10) water. The glass contains just under 10 milligrams of potassium and sodium hydroxide, which on contacting the hydrochloric acid in the stomach is instantly neutralised into a few milligrams of potassium and sodium chloride and a few milligrams of water. Nothing to indicate any significant health benefits there.

Formally, the neutralisation reaction is basic hydroxide ions (OH^-) reacting with the acidic hydrogen ions (H^+) to make water: $\text{OH}^- + \text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O}$.

A few milligrams of stomach acid are neutralised by the alkaline water, but this is only a small percentage of the total stomach contents, and, in any case, the body replaces the acid

SCIENCE



DR STEVE HUMPHRIES



Image Bernd Müller, Pixabay

to maintain normal stomach acidity (pH 2). Through all this, blood pH remains controlled within its normal narrow limits; alkaline water does not systemically change the body's pH in any substantive way.

Alkalife is the only pH booster awarded a US patent; showing that patents not only protect good ideas from being copied, but profitable ineffective ideas as well.

Natural alkaline water can taste great, and, for some people, it may help aid digestion, but it's not going to produce major health benefits through changing the overall pH of your body.

So, what about ionised antioxidant alkaline water? Does passing an electric current through tap water really turn it into a health-giving antioxidant? We need to look at the science.

An excess of free radical reactive oxygen species (ROS) in the body – oxidative stress – is known to play a role in the development of a wide variety of diseases. These free radicals damage healthy biological molecules by stealing electrons from them. Chemists call molecules that acquire electrons like this, oxidising agents.

We need something to prevent this dangerous oxidation process occurring in the body – we need antioxidants.

There are several ways antioxidants can work, but the main way is simply to give electrons to the electron-seeking free radicals before they can do damage. Vitamin C is a classic example of an electron-donating antioxidant. Chemists call molecules that

donate electrons like this, reducing agents.

When tap water is electrolysed at the negative cathode hydroxide ions are formed, so the water becomes alkaline. Though, as we have seen, these hydroxide ions are simply neutralised and converted to water in the stomach.

Hydrogen gas is also formed, and hydrogen is an electron-donating reducing agent. The reducing power of this alkaline hydrogen water is normally reported by marketers in terms of its oxidation-reduction potential (ORP). An ORP value is a measure, in millivolts, of the tendency for a solution to act as an oxidising agent (positive values) or act as a reducing agent (negative values). Negative ORP values are reported as demonstrating the "amazing" antioxidant power of ionised alkaline water.

What they don't say is that in an alkaline solution a single microgram of dissolved hydrogen in a litre of water (an infinitesimal amount with no possible therapeutic value) can, nevertheless, produce substantial negative ORP values.

And just because in a beaker ionised alkaline water is a reducing agent, that doesn't necessarily mean it's a biologically effective antioxidant – therapeutic effectiveness needs to be assessed with placebo-controlled trials.

Using ORP values to promote the antioxidant health benefits of ionised alkaline water is little more than pseudoscientific hand waving.

Research is ongoing, but currently there is a lack of good scientific evidence to recommend drinking ionised alkaline water for better health. There is no established biological mechanism of action, and no established effective dose.

In any case, the best way to deal with oxidative stress is to do something about the causes (which include poor diet, excessive alcohol use, stress, and sleep deprivation). Prevention is better than cure.

■ 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

Fifty artists at Matariki ceramics fest

The Star Glaze Mid-winter Ceramics Festival is on from Thursday, June 23, and through Matariki weekend at the Tote Modern Gallery within the Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club.

It's an Ōtaki Pottery Club cash and carry, all-weather event running from 10am-4pm during the four days ending Sunday.

Featuring 50 artists from throughout the region, there will be a diverse range of work for sale. The clubrooms will be open for demonstrations. A raku firing will take place on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.

Blacksmith Warren Baillie from Endangered Crafts will run an interactive demonstration during the event on the afternoons of Thursday-Saturday. Kiwi Kai will have food and refreshments on site during the event. There is ample parking for visitors.

Meanwhile, the Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club will also be running a race day on the Friday (June 24) to celebrate Matariki.

■ Star Glaze runs from Thursday to Sunday June 23 to 26 from 10am to 4pm daily. Entry by koha. Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, Te Roto Rd, Ōtaki.

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Te Horo/Hautere boil no more

Te Horo/Hautere residents are no longer advised to boil their drinking water.

Kāpiti Coast District Council has removed a precautionary boil water notice for the area’s public water supply that was issued in November 2021. The notice was issued as a precautionary measure after the council found that turbid water flowing through ultraviolet treatment reactors had reached levels that weren’t compliant with New Zealand’s water standards.

Turbidity is a measure of solid particles in water using the amount of light that can pass through. Although turbid water is not always unhealthy, high turbidity in drinking water can act as a shield for bacteria and other organisms. As a result, it can prevent treatments from disinfecting the water as effectively.

Acting infrastructure services group manager Glen O’Connor says the council has recently completed the first of a two-phase \$1.59 million upgrade at the Hautere water treatment plant to increase turbidity resilience, allowing the precautionary notice to be lifted.

“The Hautere/Te Horo water supply was unique in Kāpiti because the water came from bores that were closely connected to the Ōtaki River, meaning when there was heavy rain turbidity levels could rise to non-compliant levels,” he says. “While we never detected any water contamination, we needed a precautionary notice in place as an extra protection.

“As part of our upgrade works, we have now drilled and developed three new bores, two for production and one for monitoring, which, together with our water treatment processes will ensure we can consistently provide high quality water no matter the weather.”

Extensive sampling of the network as well as



JOB DONE: Workers complete the first of two stages in a \$1.59 million upgrade at the Hautere water treatment plant to limit the likelihood of turbidity. *Photo supplied*

the water tank at Te Horo School has returned results clear of any contamination giving the council the confidence to lift the precautionary boil water notice.

Hautere and Te Horo residents who access the public water supply to top up their tanks don’t need to continue boiling their water.

The council’s focus will now shift to the second phase of the project, which includes upgrades to the water treatment plant and the addition of new filters to further protect against water contamination.

“Providing a continuous supply of high quality

and compliant water to the Hautere and Te Horo communities is a high priority for us,” Glen says. “We want to thank residents for their patience and resilience over the last seven months and we look forward to delivering the next phase of this project, securing access to safe drinking water.”

Residents are advised to call the Council on 04 296 4700 or email kapiti.council@kapiticoast.govt.nz if they have any questions or concerns.

■ For more information about the Kāpiti public water supply, visit kapiticoast.govt.nz and search “water supply”.

HELPLINES AND LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

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

- call your local mental health crisis assessment team 0800 745 477 or take them to the emergency department of your nearest hospital
- if they are in immediate physical danger to themselves or others, call 111
- stay with them until support arrives
- remove any obvious means of suicide they might use (eg ropes, pills, guns, car keys, knives)
- stay calm, take deep breaths
- let them know you care
- keep them talking – listen and ask questions without judging
- make sure you’re safe.

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

Services for support & information:

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

For children and young people

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

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P3 Research

PAKIHI/Business

Government offers liferaft for first-home buyers

Getting on to the housing ladder is notoriously difficult, and with house prices skyrocketing in the past few years, many first-home buyers have become discouraged.

However, the Government has recently announced some great initiatives to help first-home buyers.

First Home Loans and First Home Grants

For those who don't know, the Government can assist eligible first-home buyers by providing them with a loan. Most banks have lending criteria that require they only lend to buyers with at least a 20 percent deposit.

This First Home Loan allows purchasers to buy a home when they only have a 5 percent deposit, by Kāinga Ora underwriting part of the loan from the bank.

The Government also offers a grant of up to \$10,000 to eligible first-home buyers, provided they have been contributing to their KiwiSaver for at least three years.

Before recent Budget changes, however, several obstacles got in the way of many purchasers being able to qualify or access this loan and this grant.

House prices

One problem was that there was a cap on the price of a house you could buy and still be eligible for the loan

MATTERS OF LAW



FRANCESCA FLAWS

and/or grant. Given that house prices have increased dramatically over the past few years, many first-home purchasers could only find homes above this maximum threshold.

In an effort to counteract this, the Government has removed house price caps entirely from the First Home Loan. This is expected to provide a greater choice of homes for prospective first-home buyers.

The caps for the First Home Grant have not been removed but have been significantly increased. For instance, if you were planning to buy in the Wellington region, you would previously have needed to find a house under \$650,000 to qualify for the grant. You now only need to find a house under \$925,000 (depending on the property). Further, these housing caps will be reviewed every six months to ensure they reflect market conditions.

Dependants

Another problem existed for



Image: Alexandr Podvalny Pixabay

purchasers with children/dependants. To be eligible for the loan and/or grant, purchasers have to fall below a certain income cap. Previously, this cap was not differentiated between individual purchasers, and purchasers with dependants. As you will know, looking after and caring for children is an expensive task.

So, while some people with dependants might have had larger incomes than people without dependants, the fact that a portion of their income goes towards their children means that they were often left with the same amount of income to go towards purchasing a home as their childless counterparts. Yet because their income was higher than the threshold, they would be barred

from accessing the loan.

The Government has sought to combat this issue by differentiating between people with dependants and individual purchasers by adding a new income cap for buyers with dependants. So now, individual buyers need to earn less than \$95,000, whereas purchasers with dependants only have to earn less than \$150,000.

KiwiSaver contributions
Another issue that prevented people from being able to access the loan was the amount they had to contribute to KiwiSaver. To make this easier on purchasers, the threshold of KiwiSaver contributions has been adjusted to reduce the amount of regular savings required to access the grant.

Additional help

The Government has also made various changes to make it easier to access the First Home Grant, such as people purchasing relocatable homes, people who are on rent-to-buy schemes, and people purchasing Māori land.

We recommend that any potential first-home buyer familiarise themselves with these changes to give themselves the best chance of getting on the property ladder. Kāinga Ora also has a great website and interactive tools that can help you understand which products/schemes you might be able to apply for.

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

Quality product and service delivery a survival essential

If you want to deliver products and services like a master, here are some notable points:

- Consistency is critical to success because profit – the purpose of being in business - comes from repeat customers.
- People and processes are the two sides to achieving delivery mastery.
- Fine details matter because sorting out the small things allows the more significant things to take care of themselves.

There are four areas to master to build a successful business – one that is commercial, profitable and can work without the owner being there every day. Time, direction, and money are the first three, but no business will achieve its true potential without consistent delivery excellence.

Delivery mastery – meeting and exceeding customer expectations every time with the same high quality of product or service regardless of outside factors – sets apart great businesses from merely good ones. In a world disrupted by supply issues, staff shortages and rising inflation, mastering delivery is a business survival essential.

Be consistent

The first key to mastering delivery is to be consistent because referrals rely on it. Imagine going into your local hairdresser and coming out the first time with a great cut, having had a coffee while in the salon and loving the great experience. Then, the second time, no coffee and a rushed cut with a jagged fringe. There'd

be no third time, and you'd likely tell your friends about it. Much better to under-promise and over-deliver than to be inconsistent and unpredictable.

Learn to love feedback

If you are the salon owner, embrace feedback! We all love compliments, less so complaints, but that's shortsighted because complaints are

a great source of things to fix. As the business owner, one of your essential tasks is finding and eliminating bottlenecks in your operations (anything that throttles your business and leads to poorer customer experiences). Having a customer complain gives you immediate insights into a bottleneck that needs fixing. Most times, customers who complain are trying to help you, rather than having a whinge, so next time you get feedback, grab it with both hands and quickly sort out the root cause.

Flowchart your operations

Of course, it's even better to sort out bottlenecks before they cause complaints and slow down your business. To do that, get right down into the "brass tacks" and flowchart your operations. Create a visual map of every part of your business, starting at the highest level and working your way down. That means starting with the end in mind, with the customer as your reference point, not your business. Once you've created a detailed flowchart, measure each step of the process – how long does it take to respond to a quote, get out to the site, or get supplies to get the job started? Going back to the salon example, how long does each type of

service take? If you're running a business that sends invoices once the job is done, how long after completion do you invoice and how long does it take to get paid? Where in your process do you ask customers for feedback?

Use checklists to standardise

Here is where things get interesting. Having done the flowchart, it's time to make checklists of all the tasks, starting with the most routine. Some people are inclined to say: "I don't need checklists. I know this stuff, and it's just routine." No matter how good you are, you will forget things from time to time. To build a business that works without you, systems and processes must be consistent and deliver excellent service even when you're away with friends and family. That isn't possible when your "system" is only in your head!

So, get out a pen and paper and write down the checklists. Have the person responsible for that part of the operation review it because responsibility and authority are best delegated to the point of delivery. Once you've done the flowchart and the checklists, ask yourself: "How can we improve by 10 percent in each step of the process?" Set yourself and your team goals to improve each of the steps. Make a game of it, with prizes for the winner of the best performance improvement suggestion.

Invest in training

Good systems and processes are only one half of delivery mastery. Good systems are run by well-trained, skilled and customer-focused people. People are your greatest asset, but only if you invest in them and empower them to fulfil their potential. It starts with finding, attracting and hiring the best people you can, but it doesn't stop there. People only perform

to the level they've been trained, so if you want success, invest in training, coaching and mentoring to get the best performance.

One of the best questions you can ask yourself is whether each of your team knows where they fit into the bigger picture and how they affect the overall customer experience. That means right from the back of house to the person speaking to customers directly. A restaurant's waiter can't deliver excellent customer satisfaction without the cleaning staff, prep staff, or the person who ordered the ingredients, even though the customer might never get to interact with those people.

Align expectations

Do a simple 10-point exercise. Starting with yourself, get each person to write down the 10 things they believe make up their job. At the same time, you write down what you think their jobs are. Start with your team leaders (then get them to do the same with their direct reports) and compare what each of you believes their jobs are. If the two 10-pointers don't match up (and they won't), it's hard for your team to work to your expectations.

Remember, if you grow your people, they will grow your business. By speaking to them, you will learn things about your business you never knew or took for granted. You will get the chance to give them the best opportunity to exceed customer expectations. Consistent, high-quality delivery is good delivery.

■ If want to grow your business, call 0222 332 669 or email chris@centreforbusinessexcellence.com. To join the Centre of Business Excellence, 'Like' [centreforbusinessexcellence](https://www.facebook.com/centreforbusinessexcellence) on Facebook. Sign up for the newsletter at [centreforbusinessexcellence.com](https://www.centreforbusinessexcellence.com)



CHRIS WHELAN

YOUR BUSINESS

MAHI MĀRA/Gardening

How to space out your fruit trees

There's not a gardener alive who hasn't squashed too many trees into too small an area! Those little wee seedlings defy us to give them space, but give it we must.

There's a Goldilocks point we're aiming for here – a balance between fitting as many fruiting trees in as possible without choking up light + air + access.

With tree-planting season around the corner, let's work you up a solid plan.

Rootstock

Rootstock determines the overall size of your tree. Base your spacings, therefore, on each tree's rootstock. Here's a general guide.

- Apples on MM102 – a 4m space
- Apples on MM106 – a 5m space
- Pears on quince – a 3.5m space
- Stonefruit on plum or peach rootstock – a 5m space
- Peach seedling trees – a 5m space
- Citrus on trifoliata rootstock – a 4m space
- Citrus on flying dragon rootstock – a 3m space
- Feijoas – a 3m space. These can be hedged. Let them come in the middle but be sure of light and access front and back.

Next you need to personalise your tree spacings to your specific environment. Add a little extra to the rootstock measure, or reduce it, depending on light, airflow and access.

Light + airflow + access

Trees need more space in environments that are cool, wet, still, shady or humid to bring the light and air they need for best production and health. Light is key for fruiting plants! Wood bathed in light is productive wood. Fruit bathed in light is, well, ripe! In really hot/ dry or windy

THE EDIBLE GARDEN



KATH IRVINE

environments, close the gap so trees can protect each other.

In my high rainfall, cool mountain zone, I add 1m-ish to the rootstock measurement, not only for extra light and air, but also for the joy of not getting my eyes poked out and hair tangled at pruning and harvesting.

Failsafe spacing

Before you go tree shopping, have a dummy run, using labelled stakes to represent the trees. Bang them in where you think they'll go. The stake starts to make the tree real and gives you pause to marinate on

its position. I hear the sound of a sweet set-up calling!

Ponder on these things

- Is there enough room for the tree to spread out?
- When fully grown will it create unwanted shade?
- Can you access all sides, or at least 3/4 of the tree?
- Look up and check for wires – beneath wires is for short things only.
- What other traffic needs to get by – feet, mower, car, tractor...

Keep moving stakes about until you are happy.

Can I prune my trees hard and squash more in that way?

The harder you prune, the more water shoots arise the year after – an exasperating and not particularly fruitful pattern to get into. Instead, choose a rootstock that fits your situation, and give it due space. It's far easier and more graceful than trying to force a tree into submission.

For small, productive trees, train them on wires or grow them in evergrow bags (see evergroworchard.co.nz).

■ 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.



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HĪTŌRIA/History

Making museum accessible, interesting

The way in which most organisations are shaped and work is based on its purpose and determining the answers to three questions – what does it do, why does it do it, and how does it do it?

Most of the people who know of the Ōtaki Museum and visit our exhibitions have an idea of “what” we do, but many know little of the details of the “why” and “how”. The challenge for those of us involved with the museum is to provide our community with the opportunity to understand that while we collect items recording Ōtaki’s history and hold exhibitions in which they are displayed, the “why” we do so is because we are committed to ensuring that Ōtaki stories told today and in the future in ways that are accessible and interesting for everyone.

The “how” is achieved by our volunteers, the organisational structure within which they work, and our processes. The structural arrangements are quite simple. Most volunteers work “front of house”.

I’m one of a smaller number who are trustees, whose main responsibility is to work together as the museum’s board. In this role, we are sensitive to our obligations to the community and to Kāpiti Coast District Council, which provides us with an annual grant, to act responsibly, and do the right things as well as we possibly can.

DAVID LEDSON



Otaki Museum

And this is where processes come into play.

Among the trustees there is wide management experience in both public and private organisations. We have seen the good and bad, and we all favour the best we can be. This means we continuously look to improve our performance, and it’s difficult to do that if you don’t know how well you are doing the things that matter.

This is where the what, why and how all come together. If we are to get the what and why right, we need to connect right across the Ōtaki community – and we need to know where we are not doing that. One thing we do to measure our performance in this area is run visitor surveys during our exhibitions. The results tell us that school students are not attracted to the



VISIT: Museum Trust chair Judith Miller points out old Ōtaki landmarks with college students during a recent visit to the museum.

Photo Marion Lumley

museum. Consequently, we have been talking with local schools about ways in which we can complement what they are doing – and the new history curriculum (Aotearoa New Zealand’s histories/Te Takanga o Te Wā) is a great opportunity for us to do this.

It was with considerable delight, therefore, that we recently hosted a visit to the museum by 23 Year 9 students of Ōtaki College, and their teacher, Marion Lumley. There was also a recent visit by the local Cubs group.

The college visit was to enable the students to view past images and maps of Ōtaki in relation to maps in the book, *Horowhenua, its Maori place names and their topographical and historical background*, written in 1948 by George Adkin.

As the college starts working on a school kit, *Something Happened Here*, it was also useful for the students to gain an understanding of the importance to historians of images and documents.

The students’ responses to the visit, and to the current exhibition, “The Way We Were: Glimpses of Days Gone By”, ranged from disinterest, through interest, to enjoyment. A highlight for many seems to have been the Chinese room with its pots.

The responses have helpfully shown us we have more thinking and work to do if we are to have students get our “why”, understand our “how” and enthusiastically connect with our “what”.



CUBS: The Ōtaki Cubs group on a recent visit to the museum, hosted by museum trustee Di Buchan. “Di made an excellent tour guide and held the Cubs’ interest with stories to go with the items,” said Cub leader Annie Bythell. “The Chinese section was a highlight.” After their visit, the Cubs did a tour of Main Street identifying historic buildings and sites of interest from maps on a clipboard. The Cubs, back row from left, are Tessa-Rose Ornberg, Kyuss Carson, Audrey Manser, Jayden Corbitt, Kieran Butler, Zoe Wilson and Brianna Jackson; front row Sion Doyer, Elijah Luke Sherman, Ruby Engels, Fletcher Roper and Jamie O’Callaghan.

Photo Laurie-ann Engels



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OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS: Manakau School 1934

Compiled by Debbi Carson



MANAKAU SCHOOL 1934. Where do we start? These kids would be in their 90s today. Do you recognise them? Please let us know if you do.



ŌTAKI SCHOOL 1964. Back row: unknown, unknown, Graham Peters, Puke Wara, unknown. Middle row: Wayne Williams, Doug Garrity, unknown, Wayne Smith, unknown, ? Lawson, Henare Waaka, unknown. Front row: Betty Chung, Karen Townrow, Shirley Searanke, Julia Sams, Karen Collis, Sheila Salmond, Raewyn MacDonald, Margaret Marchant, Elizabeth Cook, unknown.

Thanks to Margret Marchant for updating some names.

GOT SOME 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.

Taonga Puoro online is music to the ears

Maimoa Toataua-Wallace, a kaitohutohu mātauranga Māori (mātauranga Māori outreach advisor) at Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision, shares some favourite recordings of taonga puoro (traditional Māori musical instruments) and where to find them. Visit ngataonga.org.nz to search for these recordings in Ngā Taonga's online catalogue.

Mrs Paeroa Wineers – The Koauau (1961)
What to search for: Reference number 43577

Whakarongo mai ki tēnei uiui ngahau a Paeroa Wineera (Ngāti Raukawa). E ai ki te kaiuiui ko Paeroa tētahi o ngā ākonga whakamutunga ki te whakatangi i te kōauau. Ka matapakihia e Paeroa ngā wā whakatangi kōauau, ka whakatangihia hoki e ia te waiata a Tūtānekai ki a Hinemoa.

I mōhio rānei koe: I te wā o tēnei uiui i te tau 1961, ko Paeroa Wineera anake te tangata e ora ana o te hunga i pōwhiri i te Duke of York, a Kingi George te tuarima, i tana taenga mai ki Aotearoa i te tau 1901.

Listen to this interesting interview with Paeroa Wineera of Ngāti Raukawa. According to the interviewer, Paeroa was the last exponent of the art of playing kōauau (small flute). Paeroa gives instances of when kōauau are played and also plays



KOAUAU: A typical koauau, or traditional flute.

the song Tūtānekai once played to Hinemoa.

Did you know: During the recording of this interview in 1961, Paeroa Wineera was the last living person to have welcomed the Duke of York, King George V when he arrived in New Zealand in 1901.

Te Puna Wai Kōrero, Ngā Marae Auckland (July 14, 1979)

What to search for: Reference number 45423

He taonga kōrero tēnei e whakamārama ana, e whakatauria ana hoki i te pūtātara, te pūtōrino, me te kōauau. Ko Tākuta Mervyn McClean e whakapāoho ana i ngā whakamāramatanga nei mō ēnei taonga o uki.

This is an audio recording of Dr Mervyn McClean, a music ethnologist at Auckland University. Here, he details some of the most prominent taonga puoro and when these taonga

are appropriately used; the pūtātara (conch shell trumpet), the pūtōrino (large traditional flute), and the kōauau (small flute).

Music and Customs (1950s)

What to search for: Reference number 43735

Kāore e kaha kitea ana ngā taonga puoro kua tūhuratia e tātou. He tikanga tā ēnei taonga, he mana, he mauri hoki ōna. I tēnei taonga kōrero, ka whakarongo tātou ki ngā taonga puoro o te ao hou, arā, te ukurere, te rakuraku ā tae atu ki ngā taonga o uki; te nguru, te pūkāea, te kōauau me ētahi atu.

Some of the taonga puoro we share are seldom heard in modern times. All taonga puoro have an aspect of mana, mauri, and their own tikanga. In this recording, we hear some of the more modern forms of taonga puoro; the ukulele and guitar along with traditional taonga such as the nguru (nose



flute), the pūkāea (long wooden trumpet), the kōauau (small flute) and more.

Ngā Taonga Whakatangitangi (1996)

What to search for: Reference number 47942

Mō tēnei kōwhiringa whakamutunga, kāore he whakamāramatanga mō ngā momo taonga puoro, engari kē he whakarongo noa ki ngā oro o ngā momo taonga puoro o te ao Māori. Kua whakarārangiā ngā momo taonga puoro pērā i ngā momo nguru, ngā momo hue, ngā momo pūtātara me ētahi atu.

In this final selection, there's no explanation for the taonga involved, instead, we encourage you to listen to this medley of waiata from the taonga in this special audio recording Ngā Taonga Whakatangitangi. The taonga played are noted in the catalogue, ranging from different forms of nguru (nose flute), hue (large gourd), pūtātara (large traditional flute), and many more.

■ 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 phone 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.



POPPY DAY APPEAL 2022

The Otaki RSA Poppy Trust
THANKS ALL VOLUNTEERS

who freely gave of their time on April 22-23, and all of those in the Otaki and Waikanae communities who, over the two days, generously gave a donation for a POPPY to wear.

TOGETHER, YOUR EFFORTS RAISED \$9,824.90
for the support of our Veterans.

Ngā mihi nui | Thank you very much.

OT KIDS' NEWS



COW BURPS MEASURED FROM SPACE

For the first time ever cow burps have been measured from space using satellites in California, USA. When cows burp or fart they release a gas called methane, which is a big contributor to global warming and climate change. Human activity creates the most greenhouse gas emissions, but researchers are investigating how the agriculture industry could be contributing to climate change. Cows burp a lot because when their four stomachs break down grass and other food, gas is produced and they have to

get rid of it. Calculations from the emissions on just one day added up to more than 5000 tons of methane going into the Earth's atmosphere. If this carried on for a year, enough gas would be released to power just over 15,000 homes! According to Nasa, almost a quarter of the world's methane emissions come from the agriculture industry, most of which is from raising farm animals for meat and dairy. Scientists hope that this information can be used to help set official targets to limit the amount of methane produced.



EARTH-LIKE PLANET COULD HOLD LIFE

An Earth-size planet has been spotted orbiting a nearby star at a distance that makes it not too hot and not too cold, but comfortable enough for life to exist. If confirmed, the exoplanet, named Gliese 581g, would be the first Earth-like world found in a star's habitable zone – a region where a planet's temperature could sustain liquid water on its surface. And the planet's discoverers are optimistic about the prospects for finding life there. "My own personal feeling is that the

chances of life on this planet are 100 percent," said Steven Vogt, a professor of astronomy and astrophysics at the University of California, Santa Cruz. "I have almost no doubt about it." The new-found planet joins more than 400 other alien worlds known to date. Most are huge gas giants, though several are just a few times the mass of Earth. The star is located 20 light-years from Earth in the constellation Libra. One light-year is about 6 trillion miles (10 trillion km).



GOVERNMENT TO FUND TREE PLANTING

The government is to provide a grant enabling 35,000 native trees to be planted in 40 NZ schools. The announcement was made on Arbor Day (June 5), to reinvigorate the international day of tree planting. Aotearoa celebrated its first Arbor Day

in 1890. Forestry Minister Stuart Nash said it had signed partnerships with the Trees That Count and Trees for Survival programmes. Tree planting, especially with native trees, is a proven method to slow down the effects of climate change.

COLOURING COMPETITION



NAME:

AGE:

PHONE:

Drop your coloured picture into Ōtaki Today's box at Riverstone Café by July 8 to win a \$20 book voucher or an *Animals in Vehicles* book.

WORD MAKER



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

Brrr . . . it's getting colder outside. Don't forget your hat, gloves and jacket. When you have to stay inside on a winter's day, see how many words you can make from the word WINTER! Check out our list of words on page 29.

KYUSS'S NORTH ISLAND TOWNS & CITIES WORD SEARCH



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

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

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Weigher keeps tabs on wood

A new weigh machine has been installed at the Zero Waste site thanks to the efforts of local supporters.

The machine weighs donated wood coming in and out, which is part of a council waste management requirement for any operator shifting 20 tonnes or more a year. The requirement ensures organisations are accountable for everything donated and not diverting too much to landfills.

The machine can measure accurately

between half a kilo up to 1.5 tonnes.

It was only the generosity of businesses, local individuals and a grant from the Ōtaki Community Board that made it possible to buy the weighing machine and put it securely on site.

Local farmer Max Lutz arranged a “really good price” for an ex-demo model to be bought from farm equipment company Gallagher, with financial assistance from Farmlands. That, and a \$500 grant from the community board submitted by Adrian Gregory secured the

machine for Zero Waste – who had to pay nothing.

The weigh machine is stored securely in a locked container at the site next to the transfer station on Riverbank Road.

Zero Waste’s volunteer-run wood recycling operation has been a local success story. Donated timber is used for all sorts of home and small business projects.

■ Open Wednesdays 9.30-10.30am, and last Sunday morning of the month to noon, other times by arrangement.

Māori scholarships available

The second tranche of applications for MidCentral DHB’s Māori Scholarship programme has opened, closing on July 13.

The programme includes two intakes a year to ensure the DHB captures students who start their study mid-year.

The scholarships are aimed at supporting greater Māori representation among MidCentral Health’s workforce, including primary, community, hospital and specialist services by reducing the financial barrier to studying for Māori students. The scholarship offers partial funding covering study fees for those in tertiary education.

It is one of several programmes of work introduced to increase the number of kaimahi Māori coming into the MidCentral workforce. Guided by *Kaimahi Ora, Whānau Ora*, MidCentral’s Māori Health Workforce Development Plan, it aspires to build a flourishing workforce that supports patients and whānau. By developing the Māori health workforce, MidCentral says it expects to improve health outcomes for Māori by creating culturally responsive and engaging environments.

MidCentral DHB general manager of Māori health Tracee Te Huia says it’s important the workforce can deliver

engaging and culturally safe services to to ensure greater outcomes for Māori.

“The Māori workforce has increased to just over 10 percent of the total staff within the DHB over the past six months,” she says. “We aspire to reach a workforce that reflects our community population percentage, which is about 20%. We are also considering how we partner to grow the Māori workforce for iwi and community”.

The scholarship is available to Māori who are secondary school students preparing to attend tertiary education, or currently undertaking an undergraduate and post-graduate course.

(See *midcentraldhb.govt.nz*)

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

- COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS
- AMICUS CLUB OF ŌTAKI 364 6464
- COBBLERS SOUP LUNCH GROUP: Thursdays 11am-1.30pm
- Gertrude Atmore Lounge. Free soup (koha appreciated).
- FOREST & BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY Joan Leckie 368 1277
- FRIENDS OF THE ŌTAKI RIVER Trevor Wylie 364 8918
- FRIENDS OF THE ŌTAKI ROTUNDA Di Buchan 027 683 0213
- GENEALOGY SOCIETY Len Nicholls 364 7638
- KĀPITI COAST GREY POWER June Simpson 021 109 2583
- KĀPITI HOROWHENUA VEGANS: Alastair 364 3392 Eric 367 2512
- KEEP ŌTAKI BEAUTIFUL Margaret Bayston/Lloyd Chapman
- MORRIS CAR CLUB Chris Torr 323 7753
- ŌTAKI ARTHRITIS SUPPORT GROUP info@arthritis.org.nz
- ŌTAKI BRIDGE CLUB Tim Horner 364-5240
- ŌTAKI CHRISTIAN WOMEN awomensoccasion@gmail.com
- ŌTAKI COMMUNITY PATROL Martin McGrath otaki@cpnz.org.nz
- ŌTAKI & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS Vaevae 027 447 7864
- ŌTAKI FLORAL ART & GARDEN CLUB Macha Miller 364 6605
- ŌTAKI FOODBANK 43 Main St, Lucy Tahere 364 0051
- ŌTAKI HERITAGE BANK MUSEUM TRUST 364 6886
- ŌTAKI HISTORICAL SOCIETY Sarah Maclean 364 2497
- ŌTAKI MENZSHED 022 406 9439 OtakiMenzShed@outlook.com
- ŌTAKI PLAYERS SOCIETY Roger Thorpe 364 8848 or 021 259 2683
- ŌTAKI POTTERY CLUB Rod Graham 027 445 7545
- ŌTAKI PROMOTIONS GROUP Cam Butler 021 703095
- ŌTAKI AND DISTRICT RSA, 9 Raukawa St 364 6221
- ŌTAKI SPINNERS & KNITTERS' GROUP, Barbara Austin 364 8381
- ŌTAKI STROKE SUPPORT GROUP Marian Jones 364-5028
- ŌTAKI WOMEN’S NETWORK GROUP Michelle McGrath otakiwomensnetwork@gmail.com
- ŌTAKI WOMEN’S COMMUNITY CLUB/SUNDAY MARKETS
- Kerrie Fox 027 340 0305
- ŌTAKI WOMEN’S INSTITUTE Rema Clark remaclark@xtra.co.nz
- RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE Jamie 027 444 9995/Drew 021 288 7021
- ROTARY CLUB OF OTAKI Michael Fagg 021 294 3039
- ROTARY HALL HIRE Pete Heald 027 536 5616
- TIMEBANK Suzanne Fahey 021 1275 074
- TOASTMASTERS OF WAIKANAE Graham 04 905 6236
- WAITOHU STREAM CARE GROUP Lynda Angus 020 459 6321
- ZERO WASTE ŌTAKI Jamie Bull 027 444 9995

CHURCHES

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEDICAL

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

EMERGENCIES: 111

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

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

Healthline for free 24-hour health advice 0800 611 116

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COMMUNITY

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

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

AROHANUI HOSPICE SHOP 11 Main St. 06 929-6603

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

COBWEBS OPPORTUNITY SHOP TRUST 60 Main St.

OCEAN VIEW RESIDENTIAL CARE Marine Pde 06 364-7399

- CHILDREN
- ŌTAKI TOY LIBRARY 027 621 8855 Saturday 10.30am-noon
- Memorial Hall, Main St.
- KIDZOWN OSCAR 0800 543 9696
- LITTLE GIGGLERS PLAYGROUP Baptist Church Hall, Te Manuao Rd. 10am-12noon Friday each fortnight. Denise 027 276 0983
- MAINLY MUSIC Hadfield Hall, Te Rauparaha St. 021 189 6510
- ŌTAKI KINDERGARTEN 68a Waerenga Rd. 364 8553
- ŌTAKI MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL Haruātai Park, Roselle 364 7500
- ŌTAKI PLAYCENTRE Mill Rd. 364 5787. Mon, Tue, Thu 9.30am-noon
- ŌTAKI PLAYGROUP otakiplaygroup@hotmail.com
- ŌTAKI SCOUTS, CUBS AND KEAS Brent Bythell 364 8949
- ŌTAKI TITANS SWIMMING CLUB Carla Lingnau 021 235 9096
- PLUNKET MANAKAU PLAYGROUP Honi Taipua St, T & Th 9.30am-noon
- SKIDS ŌTAKI out of school care, St Peter Chanel School. Sonia 027 739 1986
- TE KŌHANGA REO O TE KĀKANO O TE KURA Te Rauparaha St, 06 364 5599
- TE KŌHANGA REO O RAUKAWA 5 Convent Rd, 06 364 5364
- SPORTS CLUBS
- EASY-CISE/WALKING GROUP (BODY & SOUL) Joseph 364 6191
- EQUESTRIAN HORSE CLUB 364 6181: Horse Trekking club Debbie 364 6571; Ōtaki Pony Club Paul Pettengell 364 5781
- GAZBOS GOLDEN OLDIES Doug Garrity 364 5886
- HAWAIKINUI TUA RUA KI ŌTAKI (waka ama)
- DeNeen Baker-Underhill 027 404 4697
- ŌTAKI ATHLETIC CLUB Kerry Bevan 027 405 6635
- ŌTAKI BOATING CLUB Trevor Hosking 021 642 766
- ŌTAKI BOWLING CLUB Paul Selby 927 9015
- ŌTAKI CANOE CLUB Jane Bertelsen 364 5302
- ŌTAKI DANCE GROUP Barbara Francis 364 7383
- ŌTAKI GOLF CLUB 364 8260
- ŌTAKI GYMNASTICS CLUB Nancy 027 778 6902
- ŌTAKI INDOOR BOWLING Jane Selby-Paterson 927 9015
- ŌTAKI MASTERS SWIMMING CLUB Sonia Coom 04 292 7676
- ŌTAKI PETANQUE CLUB Val Clarke 364 5213
- ŌTAKI RAILWAY BOWLING CLUB Maureen Beaver 364 0640
- ŌTAKI SPORTS CLUB: TENNIS, SQUASH & SOCCER Hannah 027 327 1179
- ŌTAKI SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB Kirsty Doyle 021 102 0058
- RĀHUI FOOTBALL AND SPORTS CLUB Slade Sturmey 021 191 4780.
- Rahui Netball Kylie Gardner 0275 490 985. Junior Rugby Megan Qaranivalu 022 165 7649
- TAE KWON DO Jim Babbington 027 530 0443
- TAI CHI Gillian Sutherland 04 904 8190
- WHITI TE RA LEAGUE CLUB Kelly Anne Ngatai 027 256 7391
- WILD GOOSE QIGONG, CHEN STYLE TAIJIQUAN (TAI CHI) & CHUN YUEN (SHAOLIN) QUAN. Sifu Cynthia Shaw 021 613 081

★

★

TIME TO SHINE/ HE WĀ WHAKAWHITI
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 2022

★

★

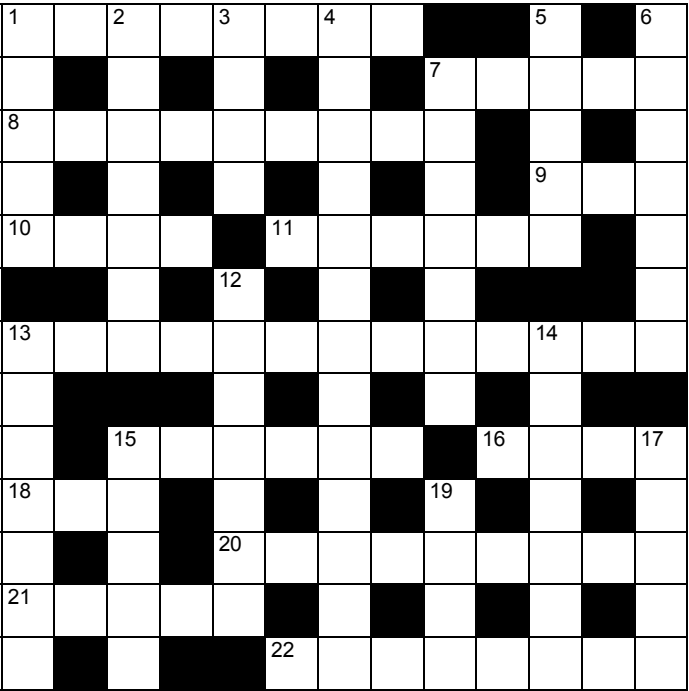
THANK YOU!

A heartfelt THANK YOU from the team at Volunteer Kāpiti,
to all the incredible volunteers that give so much to the
community organisations, clubs and schools in Ōtaki.

Volunteer Kāpiti
Te Rau Aroha

06 364 6887

CROSSWORD #1839J Crossword solution page 31.



- ACROSS
1. Badge (8)

7. Good, well done (Maori) (2, 3)

8. Coconut-covered sponge cake (9)

9. Backchat (inf) (3)

10. Stretched tight (4)

11. Sleepy (6)

13. Species of kiwi (6,7)

15. NZ footwear (6)

16. Swimsuit (4)
18. Glimpse (3)

20. Captain Cook's ship (9)

21. Auckland museum (abbr) (5)

22. Ponga (4,4)
- DOWN
1. Small waterway (5)

2. Kiwi poet (3,4)

3. Criminal group (4)

4. Cook Strait ferry service (13)

5. Fittingly (5)
6. Flowed in waves (7)

7. Knowledge, expertise (4-3)

12. Kiwi organisation supporting young families (7)

13. Supple (7)

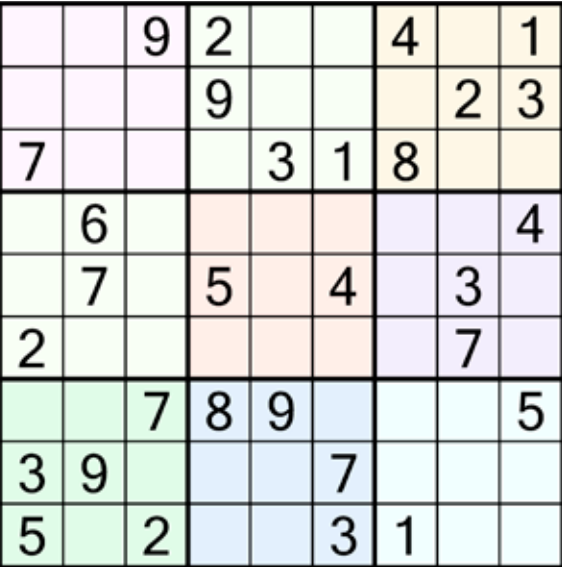
14. Duo (7)

15. Small pier (5)

17. Loud warning device (5)

19. Challenge (4)

SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz
HARD #46E 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 page 31.



NZ ARTS TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Taika Waititi's hit film *Hunt for the Wilderpeople* was based on a story by which author?

2. In 2019, which New Zealand artist inspired ranges by both Kate Sylvester and Karen Walker? Gretchen Albrecht, Gordon Walters or Frances Hodgkins?

3. Which New Zealand painter made an icon out of the Four Square Man?

4. Which late New Zealand painter, who held an honorary doctorate from the University of Otago, was best known for a series entitled *The Black Paintings*?

5. Which Swedish artist-mystic is currently exhibiting at the City Art Gallery in Wellington?

6. Toi, or Māori art, centres around four primary art forms? Name two of these.

7. Who is considered New Zealand's most famous artist?

8. Whose painting *Canoe Tainui* broke the record for New Zealand's most expensive artwork in 2017, selling for NZ\$1.35m?

9. What is New Zealand's top selling pop song of all time?

10. Who directed the film, *Disrupt*, showing at the Māoriland Film Festival, about a burglary that goes wrong, and a meth addict must choose between his family and his next fix?

ALL ABOUT MAY QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Barry Crump, 2. Frances Hodgkins, 3. Dick Frizzell, 4. Ralph Hotere, 5. Hilma af Klint, 6. Raranga (weaving), 7. Colin McCahon, 8. Colin McCahon, 9. Nature by The Fourmyla, 10. Jennifer Te Atamira Ward-Lealand.

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Terisa Ngobi

MP for Ōtāki

Labour

Authorised by Terisa Ngobi, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

GOT A JOB GOING OR LOOKING FOR A JOB?

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

Ōtāki River entrance tides

June 16 - July 13

<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
WED 15 JUN	-	03:36	09:42	16:00	22:11	
THU 16 JUN	-	04:29	10:36	16:51	23:02	
FRI 17 JUN	-	05:22	11:31	17:42	23:55	
SAT 18 JUN	-	06:17	12:27	18:35	-	
SUN 19 JUN	00:50	07:12	13:23	19:29	-	
MON 20 JUN	01:47	08:09	14:21	20:26	-	
TUE 21 JUN	02:46	09:07	15:20	21:26	-	
WED 22 JUN	03:46	10:05	16:21	22:30	-	
THU 23 JUN	04:45	11:04	17:22	23:33	-	
FRI 24 JUN	05:41	12:01	18:20	-	-	
SAT 25 JUN	-	00:30	06:33	12:54	19:12	
SUN 26 JUN	-	01:21	07:21	13:42	19:58	
MON 27 JUN	-	02:07	08:06	14:26	20:39	
TUE 28 JUN	-	02:49	08:47	15:06	21:17	
WED 29 JUN	-	03:28	09:28	15:44	21:54	
THU 30 JUN	-	04:07	10:07	16:21	22:30	
FRI 01 JUL	-	04:45	10:45	16:57	23:06	
SAT 02 JUL	-	05:23	11:23	17:32	23:43	
SUN 03 JUL	-	06:01	12:02	18:09	-	
MON 04 JUL	00:21	06:42	12:42	18:49	-	
TUE 05 JUL	01:03	07:24	13:25	19:32	-	
WED 06 JUL	01:48	08:10	14:12	20:21	-	
THU 07 JUL	02:38	09:00	15:05	21:17	-	
FRI 08 JUL	03:33	09:54	16:04	22:19	-	
SAT 09 JUL	04:32	10:53	17:08	23:25	-	
SUN 10 JUL	05:33	11:56	18:13	-	-	
MON 11 JUL	-	00:31	06:35	12:59	19:15	
TUE 12 JUL	-	01:32	07:37	13:59	20:13	
WED 13 JUL	-	02:30	08:36	14:55	21:08	



ABOVE: Lock Sam Gibson charges into a Foxton tackle, with support from Vaianu Donaghy (in headgear) and at right, Johnathan Fuimaono.

Big day for Rāhui

Rāhui Rugby Club had a big day on Saturday (June 11) with its old timer's day packing the clubrooms and a win on the field at Ōtaki Domain. Rāhui beat Foxton 24-7 for the annual Taratoa Shield in wet conditions that made it difficult for players to display the enterprising rugby the premier competition has shown to date. For Rāhui, try scorers were Te Rau Baker, Tama Cook and Joel Winterburn, with Jack Tatu kicking three conversions and a penalty. Rāhui have a top-of-the table game away against Waikanae on June 18.



CROSSWORD SOLUTION #1839J ACROSS:
ACROSS: 1. Insignia, 7. Ka pai, 8. Lamington, 9. Lip, 10. Taut, 11. Drowsy, 13. Little Spotted, 15. Jandal, 16. Togs, 18. See, 20. Endeavour, 21. MOTAT, 22. Tree fern.
DOWN: 1. Inlet, 2. Sam Hunt, 3. Gang, 4. Interislander, 5. Aptly, 6. Rippled, 7. Know-how, 12. Plunket, 13. Lissome, 14. Twosome, 15. Jettv, 17. Siren, 19. Dare.



SUDOKO SOLUTION EASY #46

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



WINNING TEAM

A combined Ōtaki-Horowhenua canoe polo team won the final of the national D Grade competition in Wellington at Queen's Birthday weekend. They won 7-6 with a "golden goal" after going into extra time. Ryan Winstanley was top goal scorer in the finals weekend with 18 goals. The combined team played in tournaments at Palmerston North, Hawkes Bay and Wellington throughout the year to qualify for the competition.



Titans get PB trophy

A five-strong team from the Ōtaki Titans Swimming Club won the illustrious Personal Best Trophy at Tawa Pool on Sunday (June 12).

Consisting of Sorcha Hipkins, Samantha Baillie, Ruby Rasmussen, Lilah Eager and Lucy Rasmussen, the team had a near-perfect percentage score (four of the five swam personal bests in their respective races). At 15 and the team's oldest swimmer, Sorcha showed plenty of leadership and took lots of time off her previous bests. Samantha qualified for more Wellington Champs times and Lilah Eager did exceptionally well in her freestyle events. Swimmer of the tournament has to go to Ruby Rasmussen, who qualified for her first ever Wellington Champs in all three of her events. Younger sister Lucy showed her skills by some solid times at her first ever competition. The Wellington Champs are later in the month.



Squash to celebrate Matariki

New Zealand’s first ever national public holiday to celebrate Matariki – the beginning of the Māori New Year – is on Friday, June 24, and with a special event at Ōtaki Sport Club the day after, it holds extra significance here.

A group of our Māori club members have stepped up and created a poipātū (squash) event to mark the occasion, and they will be delivering an awesome day of squash and more – also planned is a banquet and entertainment, kapa haka and some sharing of mātauranga (traditional Māori knowledge) around Matariki.

Close to 50 squash players from here and around the wider rohe are expected for the event, which is based on celebration and fun on court, rather than competitive tournament play.

Big thanks to Tash Webby and her tima (team) for their hard work pulling together what promises to be a fantastic day. I’m looking forward to being part of it.

Our club is well known for its yearly summer competitive squash event – the Ōtaki Open – and now having such a special winter event to go with it will only add to the reputation for manaakitanga (hospitality) that we have.

Coincidentally, our club has been the venue earlier this month for another sporting event that also combined a love of sport with mātauranga – this time around te reo Māori.

Whānau from a local kura, Te Kura-ā-iwi o Whakatupuranga Rua Mano, gathered for a morning of tēnehi (tennis), speaking only te reo Māori for the event.

Before the event, the organisers, led by a club tennis player and chair of Te Whānau o Te Kura-ā-iwi o Whakatupuranga Rua Mano, Heitia Raureti, put together a list of common tennis terms and translated them into te reo Māori to give to participants. (Aotearoa Māori Tennis Association also has a good list of tennis kupu [vocabulary], see <https://tinyurl.com/tenehi-kupu>.)



Hopefully we will be hearing toa tuatahi (winner) and tuku tere (ace) more often on our courts!

And speaking of tennis courts, we hit a milestone last month when we gained \$3000 from Nikau Foundation’s Rotary Club of Ōtaki Fund to largely complete the \$125,000 fundraising needed for the floodlights we have planned for our four courts.

The six 12m-high pylons (each in five segments to be bolted together) and the 12 LED floodlights are already in town.

And at the moment we are waiting on our engineer to draw up the pylons’ foundation designs, and we have the contractors sorted to do the construction work.

We have no date for completion but are happily waiting for all the work to be completed and, who knows, we might get our first hit of tēnehi ā-pō (night tennis) before the year ends.

We have consent from Kāpiti Coast District Council to play under lights until 10.30pm each night, and for the many tennis tragics (said with aroha!) in our club who can’t stay off court, it sounds ideal.

The lights are rated to competition standard. Could we see a tennis event here to match our summer and Matariki squash events? You wouldn’t want to bet against it.

■ Hannah is president of Ōtaki Sports Club



OLD TIMERS: Three of the oldest members of the Ōtaki Surf Life Saving Club were part of the club’s centenary celebrations on Saturday (June 11). At the anniversary dinner in the Ōtaki RSA were from left, John MacLeod (at 85 the oldest attending), Jock Richmond and Wayne Eades. John was a member in 1953, Jock in 1956 and Wayne in 1959. John recalls that he and Brian Hancock were part of a small group of members who helped revive the club after a long period of inactivity.

Photo Simon Neale

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