

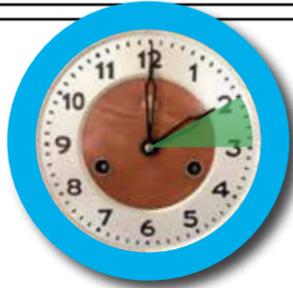
ŌTAKI TODAY

otakitoday.com

HEPETEMA/SEPTEMBER 2023

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki

Put your clocks forward by an hour before 2am on Sunday September 24 because that's when Daylight Time begins. We're back to Standard Time on Sunday, April 7 next year.



Clocks go forward Sept 24



Farewell, Rex

p3

Candidates for the Ōtaki electorate p8-9



Training begins at old camp

By Ian Carson

The gates are officially open again and work training has begun at the old Ōtaki children's health camp.

Training provider Kiwi Can Do is running its first construction industry course there, with 12 participants who are currently bussed up daily from Wellington. The goal, however, is to train mostly local rangatahi, says Kiwi Can Do founder and managing director Iain Morrison.

"We're keen to be involved in the local community, get some of the young people into training and connect them with employers," Iain says. "We see plenty of opportunities for jobs in the area."

Kiwi Can Do specialises in construction industry training. It partners with Work and Income and is funded by the Ministry of Social Development under the Construction Sector Accord to provide free courses for people on the job seeker benefit.

The accord is a combined effort by the government and industry to create a high-performance construction sector.

Standard three-week trades courses cover building, painting, plastering and scaffolding, helping mostly young people with basic skills to rebuild confidence. Experienced trades tutors run the courses, and participants come away with the knowledge and confidence to use tools and carry out construction work.

Kiwi Can Do works closely with trade employers to get job seekers into sustained employment. It follows up the training with help landing a job.

It also encourages and supports job seekers wanting to gain formal qualifications through the BCITO (Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation) or other tertiary training.

Iain sees huge potential in the old health



Kiwi Can Do students and tutors at the gates of the old Ōtaki children's health camp.

Photo supplied

camp site, which has been vacant since the camp was closed in 2018.

"There are dormitories, a kitchen and dining room – everything we need to have residential courses here," he says.

An open day on August 8 was the result of long negotiations between Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki, Kiwi Can Do and the Department of Conservation. The department has managed the site since it was closed as a health camp.

Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki, representing local iwi, has

a claim on the site as part of a pending Treaty of Waitangi settlement.

Ngā Hapū's Caleb Royal at the open day outlined the historical significance of the whenua on which the camp was built.

"Ngāti Raukawa's main fortified pā, Pakatutu, was on this land," he told guests. "There were wetlands and cultivation that produced a huge amount of food for our people."

He said Rev Octavius Hadfield had a church on the site, and there had been a couple of

battles on the land. One was famously between Ngāti Raukawa and Te Ātiawa that escalated from a dispute over a pumpkin crop.

"So there are still skeletal remains around here," he said. "Also an unmarked urupā."

Caleb's kōrero emphasised how important the land was to Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki, and why it had been a key partner in negotiations for future use of the land. Kiwi Can Do was a good fit.

"We're interested in housing for our people and better outcomes for our rangatahi," he said.

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WHAT'S ON

COMMUNITY BOARDS: Ōtaki Community Board meets next at 7pm, Tuesday September 19, in the Gertrude Atmore Lounge (attached to the Memorial Hall). The next **Waikanae Community Board** meeting is at 7pm, Tuesday October 31 at the Reikorangi Hall, 1/5 Akatarawa Road, Waikanae. The public is welcome at community board meetings. Search "meetings and agendas" at kapiticoast.govt.nz from two days before the meeting for the agenda, which is also at council libraries and service centres. To speak at a meeting, register by calling 04 296 4700 or 0800 486 486, or email democracy.services@kapiticoast.govt.nz.

ŌTAKI SPIRITUAL FAIR: 10am-4pm Saturday September 23, Ōtaki Memorial Hall. Gold coin or non-perishable food item entry. Spiritual healing, readings, books, crystals, balms and more. All funds return to Ōtaki community.

BIKE SPACE: Ōtaki Bike Space's Great Bike Giveaway and Repair Day is 10am-2pm Saturday, September 30, at Ōtaki College. Energise Ōtaki is giving away spruced-up, pre-loved bikes. Already got a bike? Bring it in for repairs. Koha appreciated. Sausage sizzle and free bike merch on site, while stocks last. And raffle tickets! See energiseotaki.nz.

WARM UP ŌTAKI: Free home heating and energy efficiency advice and support through September. See energiseotaki.nz/warm-up-otaki or contact Matt Brenin: warmupotaki@gmail.com or phone 021 142 3993.

WAITOHU SCHOOL 60th:

Waitohu School is celebrating its 60th anniversary with an open day on Friday, October 20 (before Labour Weekend). Pōwhiri for former students and staff at 1.30pm, followed by a tour of the school and afternoon tea. If attending, please email office@waitohu.school.nz for catering.

ŌTAKI MARKET: on every Sunday during daylight saving on old SH1, opposite New World. Runs from 9am-2pm. Contact Georgie 027 234-1090.

ŌTAKI MUSEUM: See the current exhibition about the Railway area of Ōtaki. Visitors can also play the old theatre pianola while at the museum. The Anne Thorpe Reading Room is open at the same times as the museum, 10am-2pm Thursday to Saturday, except public holidays. 49 Main St. Ōtaki. 06 364-6886.

TOI MATARAU GALLERY: Toi Matarau is a summit for multidisciplinary arts where Māori and indigenous artists gather, collaborate, are inspired and supported. Located in the Māoriland Hub in the heart of Ōtaki village. It is the front face of Māoriland, presenter of the Māoriland Film Festival and home to Māoriland Films. See toi.maorilandfilm.co.nz

TOTE MODERN: Ōtaki Pottery Club's guest artists in September are artist Jenny Joedan and ceramicist Angela Francis. At Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, Te Roto Rd, Ōtaki. Open 10am-3pm Friday to Sunday.

COMMUNITY NETWORKING: An opportunity for any agency providing a service to the people of Ōtaki to find out what each other is doing. First Tuesday of every month, 9.30am for an hour at the Gertrude Atmore Supper Room (by the library). Contact Marilyn 021 2255 684.

CASUAL GET-TOGETHER: Looking for company? A new resident of Ōtaki? Come along for a coffee and chat, 10am on the first Wednesday of every month at RiverStone Café (next to Kathmandu). All welcome. Contact Marilyn 021 2255 684.

ŌTAKI FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY meeting Thursday September 28 at 7.30 pm. Topic: Using YouTube and Pinterest in your family history. Venue: Gertrude Atmore Supper Room.

To join, email otakifamilyhistory@gmail.com

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 & 3rd Thursday 10.30am-1.30pm.

TOI MAHARA, Mahara Place, Waikanae. The new building opens on October 28.

CHOIRS Let's Sing Ōtaki, Tuesdays 2-3pm, Hadfield Hall. Kāpiti Women's Choir, Mondays 1.30-3pm, Baptist Church, Te Moana Rd, Waikanae. New members welcome. Enquires to Ann-Marie Stapp 021 492 127.

WAIKANA BEACH INDOOR MARKET: on every second Sunday of the month. There will be two markets in October – Sundays 8 and 22, 10am-1pm, at the Waikanae Beach Community Hall, 22 Rauparaha St, Waikanae Beach.

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

Election looms as National's to lose

Parliament looks likely to undergo a reversal of seating allocations after the October 14 election, with National and Act holding a strong majority.

The pointers to such a change in fortune for the opposition parties include the air of desperation accompanying recent government policy announcements; increased talk within Labour circles of who might make up a new leadership team after the election; and National's apparent winning of the cost-of-living economic policy debate.

Veterans of previous parliaments consider finance minister Grant Robertson to be less whole-hearted than during the previous election in promoting his party's policies. They also believe that transport minister David Parker would not have been so forthright in promoting his capital gains tax beliefs had he considered Labour to be in with a chance of holding on to the Treasury benches.

Prime minister Chris Hipkins appears likely to be the biggest individual loser – loss of the nation's leadership; in the hot seat for a party leadership challenge; and no longer perceived as a fresh face with prospects.

Labour activists talk of Hipkins' abandonment of proposals for a capital gains tax as a loss factor that turned supporters to the Greens. In their view, bold moves toward generating what they see as greater "fairness" in the tax system were "must include" items for Labour's policy mix. A more spirited defence of the government's

POLITICS



BRUCE KOHN

approach to rehabilitation in the justice system was looked for as a counter to National and Act's approach on crime.

Suggestions from prime ministerial supporters that Hipkins should have some sympathy because he had to deal in a brief time with legacy issues left over from the Ardern administration fell on stony political ground. He had been a major contributor to the record of Labour in office through the ministerial offices of the public service, education, and police.

Attack lines from National that, according to polls, resonated with voters included inefficiency and over-spending within the public service, lacklustre results of pupils within the school system and increased crime rates.

Recent public opinion polls had Labour slipping to well below the 30 percent mark, while National trended towards 38 percent. General acceptance among economists and political commentators that National's finance spokesperson got her tax package "about right" for addressing cost-of-living issues suggested the trend of National support would continue during the concluding weeks of the election campaign.

At the same time, however, a trend of greater radicalisation of financial policies by the Greens and Te Pati Māori dangled in front of more left-wing Labour voters to pull them away from their traditional base. Higher tax rates and capital gains taxes seemed meat and drink offerings for both, with an accompanying danger to Labour.

The combination of forward momentum for National and hawk-like scavenging of Labour's

vote by the Greens and Te Pati Māori points to Labour scrambling to stay above the 25 percent support level.

Through leader David Seymour and his deputy, Brook van Velden, the Act party was "flavour of the winter" for media while it released a variety of policy documents. It looked efficient and on top of its game as a party of fresh ideas. But National's strong policy emphasis in the closing days of last month, accompanied by Seymour appearing to overdo the mantra of "I've got an answer for every question," eased Act's momentum as an alternative voting option on the right.

A feature of minor party-political skirmishing has been the regular attendance of large numbers at NZ First gatherings. The cry once heard two elections back on the Paraparaumu railway station as pensioners gathered mid-morning for a Gold Card ride to Wellington – "Winston's mob to the back carriage" – can still resonate.

Shane Jones is a long shot to win Northland for the party, or it might exceed five percent of the total vote for membership in Parliament. Should either of these goals be achieved the influence it holds seems unlikely to reach the heady days of 2017 when the country waited days for the old warrior to signal his intention.

The election is: National's to lose; Labour's to survive without debilitating bloodletting to follow; Winston's to bow out from the political stage within the Parliament; the Greens to show radical social policy can make them a greater force; and Acts to demonstrate it has an ongoing constructive role in Parliamentary life.

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

GENERAL ELECTION 2023

SEPTEMBER 27
Overseas voting beginsOCTOBER 2
Advance voting beginsOCTOBER 13
All election advertising endsOCTOBER 14
ELECTION DAY

Big crowds support Paddy's Mart at Te Horo

Paddy's Mart – Te Horo School's annual fair – had stunning weather and attracted plenty of people on Saturday, September 9.

Crowds came from Wellington through to Palmerston, with the city dwellers loving the all-round country theme the fair offers. Locals, too, had plenty to enjoy, whether buying from stalls or catching up with other locals.

The fair drew about 2000 people again this year, with the weather working in its favour and the farmer of an adjoining paddock opening his gates to give fair goers easy parking.

Home and School chair Angela Gadsby says new families and old all get together to make the event successful.

"We are also lucky enough to have a principal who welcomes and encourages our crazy ideas and allows us to take over the school, not just for the day but most of the term," Angela says.

The committee has strong support from parents and caregivers at the school, and they are the people who put in the hard work behind the scenes.



Good crowds at Paddy's Mart 2023. Photo supplied

"We were also very fortunate to once again have Derek Kelly from Kelly & Co be our principal sponsor again this year."

Jared is taking a break this month – his cartoon will be back in October.

ŌTAKI TODAY *Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki*

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Rex leaving after nearly 48 years

By Ian Carson

Rex Kerr is reluctantly moving away from Ōtaki, but he leaves behind a legacy that began nearly 48 years ago when he took over the reins at Ōtaki College.

He and his wife of more than 60 years, Elizabeth, are due to move to a retirement village in Paraparaumu at the end of the month.

When they arrived in Ōtaki late in 1975, they moved into the college house vacated by outgoing principal Jack Saunders. Soon they had their own home, which was once owned by former mayor Charles Atmore and his wife, Dr Gertrude Atmore. The doctor also used it as her surgery.

The significance was not lost on Rex, who became fascinated by Ōtaki's history and wrote books on the Ōtaki railway station, the Ōtaki River, the RSA, the Ōtaki Scholar and Ōtaki's prominent early citizens. He contributed several historical articles for *Ōtaki Today* and the *Ōtaki Historical Journal*.

Rex came to Ōtaki College after being deputy principal at Wairoa College. He was principal at Ōtaki from 1976 until he retired in 1997. During this time he saw the roll expand and then contract. At its peak, in 1985, it had 680 students (it now has about 450).

It was also the biggest employer



Rex and Elizabeth Kerr at their house in Ōtaki, sold so they can move to Paraparaumu. It was once the home of Charles Atmore and wife Dr Gertrude Atmore, who held surgeries at the house.

Photo Ōtaki Today

in town (later to be surpassed by Te Wānanga o Raukawa) with more than 40 teaching staff.

The introduction of Tomorrow's Schools in 1988 was not universally accepted, and Rex still believes its lack of emphasis on the core subjects has had a negative effect on education ever since.

"It gave young students too much

choice early on in their learning," Rex says. "They weren't getting a good grounding in English, maths, general science and the arts."

He also rues the demise of School Certificate, although it happened in 2002, after he retired.

"School Certificate gave school leavers something they could take to job interviews," Rex says. "When

kids left school at 15 or 16, it was a standard employers looked for, especially for apprenticeships, nursing, teaching, banking and the public service. It meant something."

Rex is particularly proud to have introduced te reo Māori into the college curriculum, later expanding into bilingual and full immersion. Lidia Tansey began them in 1977,

with Hiko Hōhepa taking over the following year.

"It was something I'd introduced at Wairoa, and with the increasing Māori roll at Ōtaki College, I could see the need here."

He also started a horticulture course at the college, buying adjoining land that is still producing crops and giving students an understanding of growing food.

Rex's lifelong interest in rugby had him quickly involved in the Rāhui Rugby Club, only a stone's throw away from his home.

He helped build a relationship between the club and the college which meant young players were in Rāhui teams, and gave them a pathway through Rāhui after their college days were over. In his time the college had five boys teams and one girls team – plus several cricket teams.

Rex was president of Rāhui for 10 years from 2002, and has been patron since 2014.

He has been a trustee of the Ōtaki Museum, a member of the Ōtaki Historical Society, and a member of Ōtaki Rotary since arriving in Ōtaki.

After retirement he also was a ministerial representative on Te Mana Whakahaere, the governing body of Te Wānanga of Raukawa; a member of the Greater Wellington Response Forum; and on the Ōtaki Health and Wellbeing Advisory Group.

Tall Poppy

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Bryan helps Canadians with 'huge blazes'

By Ian Carson

Bryan Sutton, recently back from an assignment in Canada, says that country's fires have been "horrific".

Bryan is the Te Horo Rural Fire chief, and was one of many international firefighters called on to help the Canadians battle huge fires in Alberta. He was there from June 6 to July 14.

However, unlike his overseas deployment in late 2019, when he and fellow Te Horo firefighter Steve Borrell were battling blazes in the New South Wales and Queensland bush respectively, this trip had him working on fire breaks to contain the fires. Along with 20 other Kiwis, he was based at a temporary camp housing more than 300 people, well away from a group of four fires near High Prairie and Slave Lakes.

"The vastness of these fires was just mind-blowing," Bryan says. "The best you could do was to stop them spreading."

Fires were contained by helicopters and air tankers, then ground crews were dropped in to deal with "hot spots".

He and fellow firefighters were picked up from the camp by helicopter and flown to fire edges identified as between "black and green zones" – charred forest and still-green forest.

There they identified the hot spots and marked them for following bulldozers to deal with. Water-carrying helicopters also



Bryan Sutton (sitting in helicopter) with other Kiwi firefighters in Canada. At right, a photo Bryan took of a blaze at the edge of fire break. *Photos supplied*

helped dampen the areas down.

The blazes, which began in March and spread across vast regions of Canada, escalated in June. It burned the most area in Canada's recorded history and resulted in the worst fire season ever in North America.

There were more than 6000 fires, which burned nearly 170,000 square

kilometres, about 5 percent of Canada's forest area. Six people died.

As of September 8, there were still 929 active wildfires, with 563 of those deemed out of control. Smoke from the wildfires has caused air quality alerts throughout Canada and the United States, and drifted across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe.







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4 SEATS LEFT



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New barrier saves driver

Safety improvements just north of Ōtaki are likely to have saved the life of at least one driver recently, Ōtaki police say.

The police were called to a traffic crash about 2.15pm on August 28 after a vehicle had collided with a newly installed wire median barrier. The driver, a 53-year-old male, had suffered a “medical event”, losing control and veering towards the other side of the road.

“Fortunately there was a new barrier that bounced him back into his own lane,” says Ōtaki sergeant Phil Grimstone. “It could have been a disaster for him and anyone driving in the other direction if he had veered across the road.”

The man was taken to hospital for treatment.

The Levin CIB is investigating an incident in which a local man died and another man subsequently sustained serious injuries on Mill Road, Ōtaki, about 8pm on August 18.

The local man was riding a motorcycle and died after a collision with another vehicle travelling in the opposite direction. The driver of that vehicle was taken to hospital with serious injuries. Soon after, police sought witnesses to the crash.

“It’s an active investigation,” Phil says. “We’re awaiting a report from the SCU [Serious Crash Unit], toxicology results and other reports.”

“But in the meantime, we’ve noticed burn-outs on Mill Road near where the crash happened. It seems a strange way to memorialise someone.

“We’ll lay charges if we catch them, but I’m urging people not to do these burn-outs. They’re dangerous. Someone has already died – we don’t need any more trauma on our roads.”

Meantime, Phil says his staff are sometimes criticised when the public see police cars monitoring speeds on the expressway – the



The new wire barrier just north of Ōtaki that likely saved a man from serious injury. Photo Ōtaki Today

ON THE LOCAL BEAT

argument being that they should be dealing with more serious issues.

“Firstly, the cars are not necessarily those from the Ōtaki station, and secondly, we are still seeing some horrific speeds on the expressway. If we don’t have a presence on the expressway, and don’t catch those travelling too fast – and sometimes with excess blood-alcohol levels – we will have injuries and death.”

He says drivers are often clocked at 130km/h on the expressway, and recently at 180km/h – 80km/h over the speed limit.

At 12.35pm on August 24, a member of the public made a complaint to Ōtaki police about erratic driving. Officers saw the vehicle driving north on the Old Main Highway just south of Ōtaki, but the driver sped away along Riverbank Road.

Fearing for public safety, the officers didn’t pursue. However, they were soon alerted by another member of the public who had seen the vehicle enter a property on the old highway just south of the Ōtaki Railway shops.

A 30-year-old male gang member was apprehended at the address after being subdued by pepper spray and Tasers. He was charged with two counts of aggravated injury, escaping custody, dangerous driving and failing to stop.

He was remanded in custody and was due to appear in the Levin District Court on September 13.

Another 26-year-old male who had also been in the car “did a runner” but was later apprehended with the assistance of police dogs. He was charged with being unlawfully in a vehicle and possession of an offensive weapon. He was bailed with a court date pending.

“The incident showed how the public can help us to keep our community safe,” Phil says. “When something’s not right, we need to know.”

IN BRIEF

Spring Sing big success

A total of 200 singers from 11 choirs throughout the region entertained a packed Memorial Hall on Sunday, September 3, for Spring Sing, revived after three years of Covid disruption. It’s hoped it will return to being an annual event.

Kids market award

Ōtaki Kids Market was runner-up in the education and child/youth development category at the recent Wellington Airport regional community awards.

Fifa gear given away

Ōtaki Foodbank, Ōtaki College and Te Horo Hall benefited from gear left over from the recent Fifa Women’s World Cup. Kapiti Rotary was tasked with distributing items such as tables and chairs, cabinets and chest freezers, to local organisations.

Māori ward feedback

KCDC is seeking the community’s views on whether to establish a Māori ward ahead of the 2025 local elections. Have your say online by 5pm on Friday, October 13 at haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/MaoriWard.

STV stays for 2025

KCDC has notified its intention to keep the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system for the 2025 local body elections. Read more at www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/public-notices



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Support for bus stops

Te Horo residents upset at the lack of a bus service for their area got support for their cause at a meeting attended by the local MP, the National candidate, two local councillors and a Waikanae Community Board member.

However, representatives of the key player in the no-bus saga that has miffed the community since 2015 – Greater Wellington Regional Council – were absent from the meeting on August 27. That council operates regional bus services through Metlink.

Ōtaki MP Terisa Ngobi said she had talked to regional council chair Darran Ponter and supported getting the buses to Te Horo. However, she said MPs had no direct influence in local councils' operational matters.

National Party candidate Tim Costley vowed to push for the buses if elected in October.

"It makes no sense to me that buses don't stop in Te Horo," he said.

Kāpiti councillors Liz Koh and Nigel Wilson said they would continue to advocate on behalf of Te Horo residents to get the regional council to find a solution to a clear need in the community.

Waikanae Community Board deputy chair and Te Horo resident Michael Moore said he had invited the Kāpiti regional councillor, Penny Gaylor, to the meeting but got no reply.

Approached by *Ōtaki Today*, Metlink group manager Samantha Gain said



A gathering of Te Horo residents at the Bus Stop Cafe on Sunday, August 27, to discuss the lack of buses serving the area. Photo Ōtaki Today

Metlink was working closely with the road controlling authorities, Waka Kotahi and Kāpiti Coast District Council, to reinstate bus services.

"Once we have the necessary permissions, Metlink will work rapidly to deploy the necessary infrastructure and data to get services up and running for the community," Samantha said.

She said Metlink staff were happy to meet with the community during Monday to Friday business hours and information was available through its freephone number (0800 801 700) or online (metlink.org.nz).

Metlink told *Ōtaki Today* the position of a bus stop at Peka Peka had been identified, but it was waiting on the handover of the former SH1 from Waka Kotahi to Kāpiti Coast District Council

and the "appropriate traffic resolutions to be in place".

At Te Horo there is an agreement in principle about establishing a bus stop towards the south end of the community on the Old State Highway 1, subject to a safe pedestrian crossing and final sign-off with Waka Kotahi. Metlink would likely need to talk to affected property owners for the northbound stop, which would take 4-6 weeks.

Meantime, Metlink also said it and Waka Kotahi had agreed on bus stop locations at Riverbank Road, Ōtaki.

"The necessary road infrastructure will be installed as part of the junction upgrade which may include traffic lights and footpath extensions. This is a Waka Kotahi project and the timing is not in Metlink's control."

TIM COSTLEY ✓

GET ŌTAKI BACK ON TRACK



Authorised by Tim Costley, 31 Redwood Grove, Levin.

The sound of science

Students were treated to popping balloons, how sound changed the flames on a giant gas barbecue, and other scientific novelties as the Science Roadshow rolled up at Ōtaki College on September 1.

The barbecue was part of the “Sounding Out Waves” show that examined concepts to do with sound such as vibration, frequency and amplitude. Another show, “Mighty Materials”, looked at the physical and chemical properties of substances such as metals and fabrics and how these were put to everyday use.

The students had more than 60 interactive exhibits to explore, aimed at broadening their knowledge and experience of science and the world around them.

“Being able to get your hands on things and try them out, while having fun, is a great way for students to start a life-time engagement with science,” says roadshow manager Esther Cullen.

RIGHT: Magenta van Dusschoten and Kaia Richter reflected in a special mirror as Brie Kanavatoa points to a student on the other side. The mirror was both transparent and reflective. *Photo Ōtaki Today*



Report disputes development access safety issues

An assessment commissioned by Sue Avenue and Moy Place residents says access to the proposed adjoining subdivision should be directly from Old State Highway 1 – not principally via their streets.

The draft report (to be finalised), by Harriet Fraser, a chartered professional engineer specialising in traffic engineering and transportation planning, disagrees with the developer’s consultants that direct access via the highway would be a traffic hazard.

“An intersection with the highway is needed to provide safe access to the development and to allow for possible future development,”

she says. “It is entirely possible for the access arrangements to be redesigned so the development’s adverse effects on connectivity and road safety are significantly reduced, and to bring the development in line with the District Plan’s policy directives.”

Harriet says the proposed access arrangements are “not well aligned with, or are contrary to the District Plan objectives and policies regarding connectivity, road safety and encouraging active mode travel”.

She says there are no trends in crash records that suggest a new intersection onto the highway would result in serious crashes because:

- the available separation distances would allow for each of the intersections to operate

independently from each other

- the revocation drawings show that there are sight lines from the main highway site frontage of more than 200m in each direction, and
- the intersection could be formed at this location within the existing road reserve.

Harriet’s review of Waka Kotahi’s crash database shows for the past 10 years, there have been no fatal crashes between the Ōtaki River bridge and Waerenga Road, and three serious injury crashes (all at the Riverbank Road corner) – one of them alcohol related, one a medical incident and the third from following too closely. There has been one 2023 crash where a northbound vehicle hit a parked car.

The closest incident to the Sue Avenue

intersection was about 50 metres away.

She also estimates that traffic volumes have reduced since the expressway opened from about 19,000 vehicles a day to about 6000.

Having traffic for the development come along Moy Place would raise expected vehicle numbers from one every 10 minutes to one every 30 seconds – and with a longer road, increase speeds.

Residents spokesperson Lyall Payne says he hopes the report and other information provided by the group’s expert resource management planner can be presented to the Environmental Protection Agency’s expert panel, which will decide on the resource consent application for the development.

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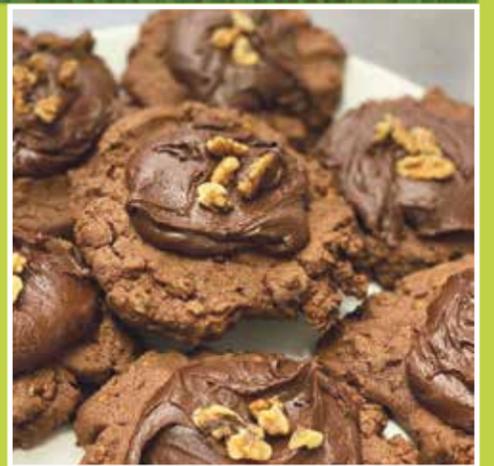
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Candidates have their say

Ōtaki Today asked the candidates of the four main parties vying for the Ōtaki electorate several questions so readers had early information about their parties' commitments, and their personal views, pending the general election on Saturday, October 14.

The questions were:

- What are the three main issues in the Ōtaki electorate that you would like to tackle as an MP in the coming triennium, and how would you tackle them?
- What do you see as the three main issues nationally that you expect your party to tackle as a government, and how would it tackle them?
- What do you personally bring to the role of Ōtaki MP?
- Anything else you might feel relevant.

Their responses are at right.

Note that Labour MP Terisa Ngobi's office advised that she could not respond as it would be "in the capacity of it coming from Parliamentary Services".

ALI MUHAMMAD GREENS

Priorities for Ōtaki

The three local priorities for the Green Party are:

Sustainable environment: One of my primary local concerns is preserving the natural beauty of the Ōtaki electorate. I am deeply committed to continuing efforts to protect our environment by advocating for sustainable practices and responsible land management. This includes addressing local water quality issues and advocating for biodiversity conservation.

Affordable housing: We need to ensure that everyone in Horowhenua and Kāpiti has access to affordable, warm housing. I advocate for policies that encourage sustainable and affordable housing developments while protecting our unique environment.

Transport and infrastructure: Our electorate needs improved transport and infrastructure. I will push for better public transport, including electrified rail services between Wellington and Palmerston North and beyond, to reduce congestion and emissions. Upgrading our infrastructure will create jobs, increase economic opportunities, and improve the overall quality of life in Horowhenua and Kāpiti.

Nationally, the Green Party is dedicated to addressing some of our country's most pressing issues:

Climate crisis: To combat climate change, we will push for bold policies such as the Green New Deal, investing in renewable energy, sustainable transport, and regenerative agriculture to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

Inequality: We advocate for a fairer tax system, including a wealth tax. Our Income Guarantee will ensure every Kiwi has financial security, regardless of their circumstances.

Environment and biodiversity: Protecting our environment and native species is paramount. We'll work towards stronger conservation efforts, protecting our waterways, and ensuring a sustainable future for Aotearoa.

Personally, I bring a unique set of strengths. I am a strong community advocate. I understand the power of community-driven solutions and engage with local groups to address our challenges. I am committed to

ensuring the voices of our younger generation are heard and that their unique challenges, such as education, mental health and employment, are addressed. The Green Party advocates to reduce the voting age to 16.

Lastly, my experience as a former refugee and immigrant gives me a profound understanding of the importance of inclusive and diverse communities. I will advocate for fair immigration policies that support refugees and immigrants while enriching the cultural tapestry of Horowhenua and Kāpiti.

In the coming term, I see this region as a place where affordable housing, environmental conservation, and efficient transport are not just goals but realities. With my background, I'm well equipped to represent the diverse interests of the Ōtaki electorate. Together, we can build a brighter future for Ōtaki and New Zealand.



Ali Muhammad

EasyVote packs in the mail

Everyone who is enrolled to vote by September 10 and has an up-to-date address on the electoral roll will receive an EasyVote pack in the mail.

The pack includes an EasyVote card as well as lists of candidates and voting places.

"Having an EasyVote card makes voting easy at the voting place," says the Electoral Commission's deputy chief executive operations, Anusha Guler. "It helps staff to find your name on the electoral roll and issue your voting papers faster."

September 10 was writ day when the electoral rolls closed for printing. People can still enrol up to and including on election day, but they will need to cast a special vote.

About 418,000 people, or 11 percent of eligible voters, who had yet to enrol. People

can enrol or update their details online at vote.nz using their New Zealand driver licence, New Zealand passport or RealMe verified identity. They can also enrol or update their details by filling in an enrolment form. They can call 0800 36 76 56 to ask for a form, or text their name and address to 3676 and a form will be sent to them.

Key election dates:

- Wednesday, September 27 – overseas voting starts
- Monday, October 2 – advance voting starts in New Zealand
- Saturday, October 14 – election day, voting places open 9am to 7pm.

A full list of parties and candidates is expected to be publicly available online at vote.nz by 2pm on Saturday, September 16.

Infrastructure improvements for Ōtaki

Over the next six years we'll deliver a \$50 million programme of infrastructure upgrades in Ōtaki.



This work is supported by \$29.3 million from the government's Infrastructure Acceleration Fund and is designed to improve our community's resilience and support current and future housing needs.

Find out more at:
kapiticoast.govt.nz/otaki-reservoir

The first project off the blocks is the new 5.5-million-litre reservoir which, as well as improving resilience, will increase storage of drinking water and improve fire-fighting capability.

EXPECTED CONSTRUCTION TIMINGS FOR THE RESERVOIR	
STAGE	ESTIMATED DATES
Earthworks – clearing the area and building earth bunds to help screen reservoir	October/November 2023
Trenching from tank site to Te Manuao Road for pipework	November
Ground improvements to provide a strong foundation for the tank	November/December
Build concrete pad for reservoir	January 2024
Construct tank and control equipment	February to June
Install pipes from site to County Road pump station	February to June
Plant native trees to screen the reservoir and create a natural environment	April/May
Fill and calibrate tank	July/August
Reservoir fully operational	Late 2024

SEAN RUSH ACT

Same issues everywhere

The three main issues people tell me are worrying them here in Ōtaki are the same issues people are telling Act about across the country – the spiralling cost of living, rampant out-of-control crime, and divisive co-governance – the three Cs.

Labour’s policies have caused all three. Their wasteful spending has put up inflation and the cost of everything, their policy to reduce the prison population by 30% has increased crime and their drive to allocate civil and political rights based on ancestry is dividing families.

Here in Ōtaki, Jim Bolger’s recommendations on sea level rise will unnecessarily push up the cost of insurance and devalue homes. My house on Marine Parade has been broken into three times in the last two years without one police visit. Kapiti’s water infrastructure is streets ahead of the rest of the country, so adopting a model where at least half the governance board is appointed without a democratic mandate seems a backward step.

Cost of living: Act’s fully costed alternative budget cuts \$38 billion over four years, which means we can deliver \$34 billion in tax cuts. We will cut wasteful spending, simplify the tax system, reverse the oil and gas ban and streamline consenting for wind power.

Crime: Protecting people and their property is the government’s first and most important task. The solution to crime requires a multi-agency transformative change in culture. Police need to be sufficiently resourced so

they can arrest and charge criminals. Judges need politicians to back them with appropriate sentences, and sufficient jail capacity to handle tougher sentences. Corrections need more capacity but also a stronger focus on



Sean Rush

rehabilitation – for example, Act will make literacy and numeracy training a condition of early parole. As a former criminal lawyer, I know victims must be at the forefront of the justice system and criminals must face meaningful consequences. Act will bring back Three Strikes, get tougher with youth offenders, and only give parole to prisoners who have done rehabilitation.

Co-governance: Act says we need a public debate about the Treaty. Act thinks it is a unifying document giving all New Zealanders equal rights. Labour/Greens think it sets up two systems where civil and political rights are based on ancestry. We say that’s wrong.

As a former Wellington City councillor I have a track record of fighting for my community (e.g. I championed the Mau Whenua occupation at Shelly Bay) and working across party lines. I have a master’s in petroleum law, and a masters in climate change science and policy giving me insights into balancing the needs of affordable energy with effective climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. I am intellectually rigorous, and evidence-based, but never forgetting my working-class roots and concern for those less fortunate. Being a father of two young children focuses me on making the future in New Zealand better for them.

TIM COSTLEY NATIONAL

We can do better

We can do better in Ōtaki, and we desperately need to.

The consistent feedback I hear on the thousands of doors I knock on, the businesses I visit, the community groups I meet; all tell me the biggest issues we face are the cost of living, out-of-control crime, a dysfunctional health system, and of course the expressway to Levin.

People want a local MP who will turn up and work hard and be active and visible in our community: that’s my style, that’s who I am.

National will tackle the cost of living, giving much-needed tax relief to Kiwis to meet the immediate costs



Tim Costley

we all face, like rents that are up \$175, groceries that cost more and more each week, and petrol. National won’t add the 12c extra tax to petrol that Labour want to sting you with. Secondly, we will get inflation under control because that’s the only way to stop prices increasing, and to get interest rates and mortgages to come back down. That helps all of us.

We must do better on health. I’ve visited local health centres and am working closely with Dr Shane Reti to deliver more in our region, things like chemo and specialists. National’s focus is on boosting our workforce, training more doctors and bonding nurses to keep them in NZ; improving waitlists so you get the help you need faster (the number of people in our health region waiting for elective surgery is more than 10 times higher than it was in 2017!); and preventative care, like more breast screening and immunisations against things like measles.

We need a local MP who will fight hard for this and who won’t sit idly by while we lose good doctors from our town.

I’ve visited businesses hit by ram-raids (up 500%!), aggravated robberies and retail crime (doubled under Labour). I’m the only one who turns up. We need to back our police to tackle gangs, banning gang patches in public and giving police new powers to stop gangs. National will combat youth offending, bringing back consequences but also giving youth the help they need to turn their life around.

Finally we’ll deliver real consequences for serious and violent offenders, limiting sentencing discounts and keeping our community safe.

Every one of us has driven on the amazing new expressway from Ōtaki south, which was built by the last National government. Labour opposed all our new expressways and have cancelled and delayed the expressway to Levin. Only National can be trusted to build it. We’ll start Ō2NL as soon as we can in the next term and continue to deliver the world-class infrastructure our region needs.

I want to be your next local MP. I bring the skills and experience from more than two decades serving in our military and the community, I bring the work ethic and character we need in a local MP, and I will deliver meaningful results and be a local MP you can trust.

Please vote for me, Tim Costley, and for National.

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Be self-sufficient, resilient

In May, I suggested ways we could prepare to survive a large-scale disaster. Recent weather throughout the country has shown us that we need to be prepared to ride out weeks, if not months, of damaged infrastructure.

Cyclone Gabrielle has demonstrated that we cannot always rely on the government or the council to help us immediately. So, how can we make ourselves more self-sufficient and resilient to such events?

This sort of resilience requires a bit of planning and preparation.

Firstly, our basic needs must be met:

- **Food** – Not only should we have a stockpile of non-perishable food, how about considering building a raised garden to plant your own fruit and vegetables? Not only will you be able to sustain yourself better, but also it will save you paying an extraordinary amount to the supermarkets. Check out the Kāpiti Crop Swap initiative now in Ōtaki (first Saturday of every month at Memorial Hall). Find locals you can swap produce with and give you gardening tips if you are new to it!
- **Water** – Do you have a water tank to store your rainwater? Contact KCDC and see what subsidies or discounts

they offer for water storage tanks.

- **Medicine** – we often forget that the pharmacies will probably be closed. Have you got a two-week supply of your medicines stashed away?
- **Sanitation** – have you kept your Covid toilet paper stockpile topped up? Perhaps you should.

Other things to think about are: alternative cooking sources – your barbecue. How are you going to charge your mobile phone? Maybe invest in a solar-charged battery that can charge your devices. Do you have any spare batteries and flashlights handy?

Not often thought about, but do you keep copies of important documents such as IDs, insurance policies and medical records in a waterproof container? These will be important, especially if you have to evacuate.

And remember, cash is king, especially if Eftpos is down.

Finally, know your neighbours, form your community support groups, share plans, resources, and information. After all, in the face of adversity, it is unity and preparedness that will see us through.

■ For contact information, scan the QR code or visit the KCDC website.



ŌTAKI COMMUNITY

SIMON BLACK



Brent Bythell and wife Annie at the ceremony to honour Brent's 60 years in Scouting.

Photo Ōtaki Today

Brent's 60 years recognised

Brent Bythell was honoured on August 16 for his 60 years in Scouts.

Although Scouts Aotearoa could not confirm it, it's believed that he is the first in New Zealand to ever achieve such a long period of uninterrupted service.

Fittingly, he was honoured with his long-service award in front of a big number of Scout leaders – including wife Annie and step-daughter Laurie Ann – and other guests at Ōtaki Fire Station. It was where two years ago he was recognised for his 50 years as a volunteer firefighter.

Brent began his Scouting journey in 1963 at Blenheim, and was involved in Scouts when he moved

to Hunterville, then Shannon and finally to Ōtaki in 1972, where he worked at the BNZ bank.

He has been presented with just about every Scouts award available, including the Medal of Merit and Chief Scout Commendation for meritorious service. He is a life member of Scouting Aotearoa.

In a speech to those gathered, he said he was grateful for the support of wife Annie, and genuinely loved every part of scouting.

"I've loved all six jamborees I've been to," he said.

He particularly remembered a trip to Antarctica in 1963, the same year he began in Scouts.

"That was an experience I'll always remember," he said.

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New chapter for Ahoaho

Ahoaho, the horticulture block at Ōtaki College, is moving to a more self-sustaining footing with a focus on market gardening.

Mike King revived the block in 2021, but moved on late last year. Since then, Rosa Yates and Jack Leason have managed the project.

“We recently received significant funding from Te Puta Ora to start creating a market garden on some of the block,” Rosa says. “The goal is to be selling kai grown at Ahoaho to the community this summer.”

The income from boxes of organically grown vegetables would help the garden become self-sustainable, and allow it to run regular courses in horticulture for rangatahi at the college.

“The focus is on food sustainability, and providing good veges for local families” Jack says. “We think we can supply about 25 boxes a week, in collaboration with Crooked Vege, and include six to eight different healthy vegetables.

“They’re spray-free and grown in living soil.”

The new Crooked Vege programme has only recently been established in Ōtaki (see story at right).

Te Puta Ora is a Ministry of Social Development fund that supports initiatives to increase access to healthy and affordable food in low-income



Rosa Yates and Jack Leason in the greenhouse at Ōtaki College's Ahoaho gardens.

Photo Ōtaki Today

communities and other communities experiencing food insecurity. It is aimed at initiatives that will be sustainable in the long term, reducing dependency on foodbanks and food hardship grants.

Meantime, Rosa and Jack are running Papa Taiao Earthcare courses, which are NCEA accredited. They offer rangatahi a chance to get

hands-on experience in regenerative growing, sustainability and conservation while in school.

“It’s just one day a week for this term, but we hope to offer it for the whole year next year,” Rosa says

Papa Taiao evolved from Education for Sustainability in the New Zealand curriculum and has been running since 2012.

Meantime, students continue to come in to the gardens to help out, sometimes on their own but other times in groups. It might be they just need time out from the rigours of school work, or have other challenges in their life.

They learn about growing plants, how to look after the tools and how to use various edible plants.

Crooked Vege seeks help

A non-profit market garden that’s sprung up in Ōtaki is seeking crowd-funding help to provide sustainably grown kai to locals.

Crooked Vege, run by Jonathan Mines and Tae Luke-Hurley, is growing vegetables that in a collaboration with Ōtaki College’s Ahoaho gardens will initially offer “pay as you can” weekly vege bags. It’s hoped those who can pay more will, to support others who struggle to feed their family.

They are also launching soon a self-serve honesty fridge space in the arcade in Main Street.

“The focus is on addressing the deeply woven intersections of food security, climate change, environmental health and community health,” Jonathan says. “We all know that we must move away from the industrial, monoculture farming practices devastating our climate, rivers and biodiversity. Yet it’s getting harder for working class whānau to access healthy, sustainably grown kai.”

■ To help support Crooked Vege, see crookedvege.co.nz

Things may start to look a little different around here, but it’s still us!

Over the next few months you’ll start to see a few changes here at Inpro Group. We have made the strategic decision to merge with Futurisk. Futurisk are a well established insurance broker based in Manawatu who have been working in the industry alongside us for over 30 years. By merging we will have access to more insurance providers and products, as well as a larger pool of knowledge from our combined teams. This is a really exciting step forward which will help us to future-proof your continuous service and grow our offering.

During this merge we will be transitioning into the Futurisk branding, but in terms of how your existing insurance is looked after nothing will change, it will be the same Inpro team behind the scenes. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to me or one of our team members.

Kind regards,



Rex Duckett

Managing Director & Financial Adviser
rex.duckett@futurisk.co.nz
 027 444 2733

What you need to know

What does this mean for my insurance/mortgage?

There are no changes to how your existing or upcoming insurances will be looked after, just a change of logo and internal processes.

Who do I get in touch with about my insurance/mortgage?

There will be no change in the way you can get in touch with us. You can still ring, email or come in and see us like you usually would. Our phone numbers will be staying the same, however, we will be transitioning to new email addresses, but our old ones will still work too.

Our new contact details

Rex Duckett
rex.duckett@futurisk.co.nz
 027 444 2733

Becky Spiller
becky.spiller@futurisk.co.nz
info@futurisk.co.nz
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HUATAU/Comment

MAYOR'S VIEW: JANET HOLBOROW

Awards recognise the generous contribution of our volunteers

The Wellington Airport Community Awards and Good Sorts Awards were held at Te Raukura ki Kāpiti last month, with a record number of nominees.

It was an incredibly moving and inspiring event, and highlighted the generous and extensive volunteer work that drives the community and enhances the lives of people, and the environment. The Community Awards recognise the work of volunteer groups across six categories. Congratulations to all the nominees and winners.

Ōtaki Market was runner-up in the Education and Child/Youth Development category for its work running the Ōtaki Children's Market. The market is a wonderful initiative that encourages creativity



and confidence, and provides an opportunity for young entrepreneurs. Visiting the market a few months ago, I was impressed by the quality and variety of stalls and the confidence of the young people running them.

The Discover Kāpiti Heritage Group was also a winner on the night, with Ōtaki Museum being a major contributor to that group. Over the years, many Ōtaki groups have been winners at a local and regional level,

and were well represented among the finalists. I encourage people to nominate their favourite Good Sort or organisation when the awards come around next year.

In more serious council business, the Draft Gambling Policy is out for consultation. Council has decided to consult on a "sinking lid" policy, where if a venue closes or loses its licence, no new licence is granted. This means that over time the number of venues and pokies in the district, including Ōtaki, will decrease.

There are 61 pokie machines in Ōtaki, which is more per head of population than our other areas, so this measure is particularly important for the town. This will be welcome news to the members of the Ōtaki

community who have long pushed for fewer pokies and gambling venues.

One of the issues with this is that much of the funding for community groups like the ones celebrated in our community awards, rely on the proceeds of gambling. This needs to be addressed, as it simply makes no sense for the good that people do in the community to rely on the disadvantage of others. We need to support our community organisations in other ways, through central government funding and other charitable organisations, so we can encourage the great work that goes on by people such as the Ōtaki Market, the Friends of the Ōtaki River and the many who work so hard for the benefit of others.

Finally, I'm looking forward to this year's Te Ara Toi o te Takutai o Kāpiti/Kāpiti Coast Art Trail, which will feature several Ōtaki artists. Held over the first two weekends in November, it's an important opportunity for artists to gain exposure and boost their profile and sales.

I'm particularly looking forward to the Whakaaro Whakairo Sculpture Symposium, which will be at the Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club in partnership with the Ōtaki Pottery Club. With more than 20 Ōtaki individuals and groups participating in Te Ara Toi, you could spend a weekend on the trail without travelling south of Te Horo!

■ Janet is mayor of Kāpiti

PLAIN SPEAKING: IAN CARSON



Five years of Ōtaki Today

In September 2018 Debbi and I decided to do what we'd been thinking about doing for some time – start our own newspaper.

Five years later we have no regrets, despite the angst of Covid in those years and the general view that newspapers were a medium of the past. We also got negative responses from some locals who couldn't understand why we would challenge an already established paper.

For Ōtaki to have one newspaper is noteworthy in itself. No other town in Kāpiti-Horowhenua has its own (let alone two), and most towns throughout the world now have to rely on regional papers for their news.

That is where we can claim some success for Ōtaki Today.

We use journalism skills honed over decades to delve into stories we know our readers want to see. They're local stories that regional papers don't have the resources, commitment or interest to cover.

We're doing what's not been done in Ōtaki before – telling the stories that some people in power would rather we don't. We've copped some flak for that, but it's our role to defend citizens who are not getting a fair deal, and hold a torch to those who think they can bully.

At the same time, we love to celebrate the innovations and successes in our community, whether by individuals, businesses or local councils. We like to tell readers about the great things happening here – of which there are many.

These concepts that make up what we know is a good community newspaper have resulted in readers coming to us with good stories, and sending us letters (yes, they're mostly emails now).

After five years, we don't claim we've got it all right. There are still challenges for newspapers, but we're constantly looking to improve and we welcome suggestions. A letter to the editor, anyone?

■ Ian is editor of Ōtaki Today

CAM'S CORNER: CAM BUTLER

Developments will bring more housing options

You will likely have heard about the fast-track development process as Ōtaki has the Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club development being referred to it and the Moy Estate development off Old SH1 being in the process.

The fast-track process is a central government initiative to get relevant developments through faster without the processes that allow objections by affected parties. So yes, once in the process there is very little the community or even the district council can do until a decision is made.

With the Sue Ave and Moy Pl residents being very concerned about construction and future residential traffic, the Ōtaki Community Board has stepped in and written to the decision panel, plus met with KCDC staff to make sure that everyone is on the same wavelength.

The OMRC development by The Wellington Company has been referred by environment minister David Parker to the process so it is likely it will be allowed into the process. Consultation with iwi has been put as a required



condition and the board has a great relationship with Ngā Hāpu o Ōtaki so we are looking forward to some meaningful conversations.

Between these two developments there will be a wider range of housing options available to the Ōtaki community. In the lead-up to the local elections last year we received a lot of feedback about the lack of smaller and lower maintenance housing options for all ages in Ōtaki. With greater options in place we look forward to more of the community being able to stay in the area if their circumstances don't match an 800sq m section with a detached house.

General Election

Please note that while the Ōtaki Community Board often deals with central government

elected members (and candidates) we are politically neutral and do not have any preference between the political parties. We do the best for the Ōtaki community.

River bridge partial closures

The old SH1 bridge short and long-term closures are still yet to come. The long-term closure is going to be very disruptive, including from the looks of it when the Ōtaki Kite Festival is on. Now that will be traffic bedlam! I still can't believe that Waka Kotahi had considered putting the closures in place when it was still SH1!

Community expo

As I write I'm looking forward to the Ōtaki Community Expo and Te Horo School's Paddy's Mart (September 9). Hopefully you have also been able to attend both of these great community events.

The Ōtaki Community Board was at the expo so we hope you were able to stop for a chat.

Keep being Sunny, Ōtaki.

• Like Ōtaki Community Board on Facebook

■ Cam is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board

TE HORO OUTLOOK: MICHAEL MOORE

Buses, a new library, gallery and playground, and kilns

There was a good turnout at the community meeting at the Bus Stop Café about the lack of a public bus serving Te Horo.

We will continue to advocate that the Greater Wellington Regional Council reinstate this for our community. Eight years is long enough to be ignored, let alone how many years ahead.

Waka Kotahi's planned road works along the Old SH1 is no excuse. It's so frustrating because we're not asking for something that will cost an extra cent to fund, yet will provide valuable public transport for Te Horo between Ōtaki and Waikanae.

The regional council still seems to be ignoring our disadvantaged rural community.

The empty old Waikanae Library building will now be redeveloped and extended. A significant decision was finally accepted unanimously at the council table last month, which nearly stalled again. A total of \$13.7 million has been in the council's budget for this project for years, so to finally see a decision is satisfying.

Mahara Place, in the centre of Waikanae's



business area, has been in need of invigoration for a long while. The redeveloped Toi Mahara gallery will open next month.

The newly established Waikanae Business Association has got going. You can contact them via WaikanaeBusinessAssociation@gmail.com

The new Mahara Place playground designed for our tamariki has been finished. There'll be an opening celebration on Saturday, September 30, from 11am-1pm (rain postponement day October 7). Come along and enjoy the barbecue and facepainting.

It's wonderful news that the two beehive pottery kilns at Te Horo, built between 1971 and 1973 by celebrated potter Mirek Smíšek, have been listed in the New Zealand Heritage

List/Rārangi Kōrero as a category 2 historic place.

The kilns were moved several metres east for the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway construction. The creation of a visitor destination is now well advanced and will be a hub for ceramic art celebrating Mirek's legacy of more than 40 years in our community. It will be a great attraction for Kāpiti.

It's located along our new 35km Kāpiti shared pathway from Paekākāriki to Ōtaki, so it will be very accessible. I'm looking forward to this again becoming a lively and inspirational place as it was to locals who recall it when Mirek was firing up his kilns.

We're expecting the hub to open later this year. You can follow and support the work of the trust via their website:

TheKilnsAtTeHoro.co.nz

• The next Waikanae Community Board meeting is at 7pm, Tuesday October 31, at the Reikorangi Hall, 1/5 Akatarawa Road, Waikanae.

■ Michael is deputy chair of Waikanae Community Board and a Te Horo Beach resident.

Cultural infrastructure could be our salvation

As a frequent traveller between Ōtaki and Wellington, life has been changed immeasurably by the new roads – Peka Peka to Ōtaki, Kāpiti Expressway and Transmission Gully.

On a clear run the journey is reduced by around 10 to 15 minutes. Better still, the congestion points are eliminated so that a north-bound three-hour Friday evening journey is now a breeze.

Infrastructure such as this costs considerable amounts of public dosh, but the price we pay, where infrastructure is inadequate, is chronic and colossal.

For example, every day that we've endured disrupted journeys has caused economic loss to the community and financial cost to citizens. That's not counting the tragedy of lives lost in stranded ambulances or the sheer frustration of sitting in snarled traffic.

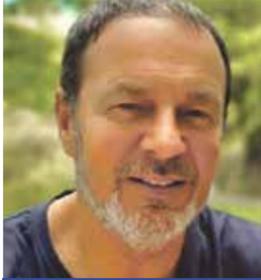
That's like a whole community riding a bike with a rusty chain, every day. Oil the chain and every day, thereafter, is faster and better.

At this point, let me hasten to say I am not advocating for more highways just for the sake of it. While most people still drive gas-guzzlers that are helping to fry the planet, and our highways cut a swathe through cities

and small towns, good infrastructure is nevertheless essential to our quality of life.

Planning and investment in good infrastructure serves the needs of everyone and can have an enduring impact long after the initial investment. And, because of its immense cost, it naturally attracts the input (intellectual and money) of the wider community.

MEDIA/COMMUNITY

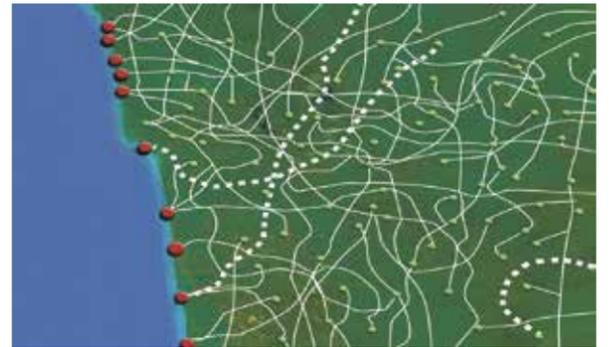


FRASER CARSON

An example from our own early history is the development of infrastructure following the advent of refrigerated shipping in 1882. Before that, dirt tracks between farms and villages sufficed, given that perishable goods needed to be consumed within donkey-cart distances.

The ability to get goods to the other side of the world presented a huge opportunity, but required strategies and investment, for example, to connect farms with processing and port facilities. The resulting infrastructure not only transformed the economy and well-being of farmers, but also it enabled communities in every sphere of life.

Along the way though, I'm not sure we've learned all the lessons from history, because infrastructure is not necessarily physical. Think of it as all the ways that people connect



1882: The need for massive investment led to planned and logical physical infrastructure (left). 2023: Cultural infrastructure, in many respects, is an uncoordinated and chaotic free-for-all (right).

with each other in communities (cultural infrastructure), which has been around since Adam and Eve. It's just as important as physical infrastructure, so why shouldn't it be just as important in our thinking and planning?

The recent Hawke's Bay floods badly affected communities and marae in Heretaunga. Expensive physical infrastructure failed, for example, because early-warning river gauges needed telco connections which were taken out by power outages. But in terms of warnings and resilience, it was the marae and the connections people had that made a real difference.* That's an important consideration in this country, given our vulnerability to natural disasters.

* Flightdec is helping Heretaunga Marae Waakainga in building an online community of hyper-connected websites (cultural infrastructure) for 17 marae in Hawke's Bay.

Taking the refrigerated shipping story and fast forwarding 140 years, we see the infrastructure tool of the current age (online and digital) is not handled in the same way as roads and bridges. The economics of digital infrastructure is cheap in comparison, so there is less motivation to look at it from a collective or community perspective. The result of this ambivalence is enabling (for many individuals) but also disabling, fragmented and chaotic.

The New Zealand Infrastructure Commission – Te Waihanga, has a sound strategy to transform New Zealand's infrastructure over the next 30 years. Rightly, they acknowledge the intergenerational benefits of good infrastructure planning and investment, and acknowledge the need to better connect the various silos of activity.

Usefully, under the headings of environmental, social, and economic

infrastructure, the commission gives infrastructure a description:

Delivering the services we depend on like power, water, transport, healthcare and education. It allows us to share resources so that we can be more connected, healthier, smarter and innovative.

In my view, infrastructure itself is in a silo, based on the assumption that it's generally about "physical" and expensive things.

For that reason, I would add "cultural infrastructure" under its own heading. It might be ignored as too obvious, but it has all the benefits of physical infrastructure, with the advantages of being cheaper, more adaptable and, in many cases, utilises available capabilities and entities (e.g. towns, marae, institutions, people networks and digital connectivity).

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

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Five misconceptions that fed vaccine hesitancy

SCIENCE



DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

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.

In my last article I looked at how vaccination rates for measles in New Zealand had been declining since 2016, culminating in an epidemic in 2019 with more than 700 hospitalisations.

In response, the government launched an immunisation catch-up campaign and ordered in 350,000 doses of MMR vaccine. Then along came the Covid-19 pandemic and resources were reprioritised, with the consequence that more than 300,000 doses of MMR vaccine expired and were poured down the drain. Instead of improving, our immunisation rates continued to fall, leaving us now even more vulnerable to another measles epidemic.

Aside from inadequately implemented vaccination programmes, a significant barrier to getting the MMR vaccine is vaccine hesitancy: a delay in acceptance, or refusal, of the vaccine despite its availability. Vaccine hesitancy is frequently driven by misinformation and misperceptions.

Misperception 1: Measles isn't that bad.

In fact, measles is a serious disease that can lead to severe complications in which hospitalisations and death can occur, even in developed countries such as New Zealand. The societal and economic costs of measles is also high, through hospital and medical costs, and lost productivity of caregivers and those infected and quarantined. The MMR vaccine is the most cost-effective way of spending our

limited health dollar to ease the burden on our health care system.

Misperception 2: Natural immunity is better than vaccine immunity.

See Misperception 1. In the face of a harmful pathogen opting for natural immunity (AKA doing nothing) is not a good strategy. Two doses of the MMR vaccine give effective and long-lasting immunity without the serious complications associated with viral infection. Relying on natural immunity exposes you, and people around you, to serious illness.

Misperception 3: With a healthy diet measles isn't really a problem.

It is true that in undeveloped countries malnutrition, the main cause of immunodeficiency, leads to far higher rates of severe complications and mortality from measles. But a healthy baby or child with good nutrition can still catch measles, transmit it to others, develop severe complications, or even die. The only guaranteed way to totally prevent measles is vaccination and herd immunity.

Misperception 4: The MMR vaccine weakens or overloads the immune system.

The vaccine contains live weakened measles virus that provokes an immune response so that a person's immune system can recognize and fend off the measles virus in the future. The vaccine doesn't weaken the immune system; it strengthens it. And studies show that the MMR vaccine does not weaken immune responses to other pathogens, though, ironically, a measles infection can, for up to three years after infection.

Anti-vaccine proponents frequently claim that multiple vaccinations, including the triple MMR vaccine, can overwhelm a child's immature immune system with "vaccine overload". This can resonate with parents, who see their child getting multiple vaccinations in a short space of time. But vaccine overload isn't a recognized medical term as it's not biologically credible or supported by clinical evidence. Given the constant onslaught of foreign antigens that a child is continuously exposed to a few additional vaccine antigens is a minuscule extra load for the immune system to handle.

Misperception 5: The MMR vaccine isn't safe.

High quality studies consistently show the MMR vaccine is both highly effective and safe; serious adverse reactions are extremely rare, and much less common than the risks from measles itself.

Anti-vaccine groups attempt to show that the vaccine is not safe by either scaremongering about the contents or using anecdotal reports of adverse reactions. An anti-vax billboard during the 2019 measles epidemic proclaimed: "If you knew the ingredients in a vaccine, would you RISK it?" Well, if you took the time to determine the ingredient concentrations and looked up the appropriate toxicological reports and scientific studies, you most definitely would opt for the vaccine.

But that is not the intent of the emotive billboard message; it is meant to instil doubt and fear. Parents are then invited to "do their own research" so they can make an "informed decision", but they aren't directed to the Ministry of Health website, or university websites, to see what the mainstream scientific public health position is.

Instead, they are directed to any number of web and social media sites with anti-vaccine messaging. Websites like that of Joseph Mercola, an osteopath turned seller of alternative-health products, who peddles a constant stream of pseudoscience (for instance, sunbeds prevent cancer, microwave ovens are dangerous, and "vitamin C supplementation is a viable option for measles prevention") to promote his products. He's a prominent anti-vaccine activist, and his business model involves promoting false claims about the dangers of vaccines (including the discredited link between vaccines and autism) while selling his alternative supplements.

Cognitive biases can also lead to vaccine hesitancy. During the years when children are being vaccinated, many serious health problems can occur, such as autism or sudden infant death syndrome (Sids), and although studies consistently show that there is no causal relationship between vaccinations and these events, the causality bias is the cognitive tendency, and logical fallacy, to see these coincidental associations as causally linked.

Anecdotal casual observation is the least trustworthy of all evidence.

Confirmation bias is then the cognitive tendency to look for events to support the supposed causal link, while ignoring disconfirming evidence.

Then there is omission bias; parents have far higher anticipated regret and guilt if harm occurs from their own actions (getting their child vaccinated) than from inaction/omission (not getting their child vaccinated, and letting nature take its course). This cognitive bias can deter parents from getting their child vaccinated, despite the risk of measles vaccination being orders of magnitude less than the disease.

Understanding the biases that drive vaccine hesitancy can help to make less biased decisions. For instance, viewing not getting your child vaccinated as a mindful choice and action (and one that can have serious consequences).

Our vaccination rates are still too low to give herd immunity community protection. We need to do better. Have you, and your children, been vaccinated?



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Spring into refreshing greens

September's plate is refreshingly green: saladings, scelery, parsley, cress, silverbeet, kale, nettle, broccoli shoots for Africa, the last of the cabbage and – joy, oh joy – the first of the asparagus.

There's so much cool stuff to do in the garden right now. You want to be out there every spare minute.

Sort any weedy spots this month. Don't do it with sprays or disruptive digging; be sensible and smother the weeds instead. Either lay plastic on top of them, or cardboard topped with mulch, or just thick mulch. Leave it until the weeds have melted into the soil, then spread some compost, and sow or plant right away.

Check in with your soil as you plant; smell it, feel it and count the worms. Choose the best soil for your crops, and where soil is less than awesome, rest it this month and sow a greencrop instead.

It won't be long before asparagus spears will be showing through. I hope your bed is weeded and composted, ready for a good season. If not, be ever so careful as you weed, the burgeoning spears break off with the slightest knock.

Slugs love asparagus, and in fact any newly risen shoot. Spring is their favourite season, and mulch is their favourite home, so my garden is mulch-less at this time of year. Another way to reduce slugs is to run chooks over as many beds as is practical with a special emphasis on any that will be direct sown with carrots. Bigger seedlings stand a much better chance against slugs, so tray-sow as many crops as you can.

Molluscs take up a bit of energy, but it's worth it until crops are up and running. Go out at night with a head torch and be amazed at how many are chewing up your garden. Toss any you find into a bucket of limey or salty water, not over the fence – karmically, you'll come undone!

What to plant and sow

Direct sow:

- carrots, parsnip, radish, daikon, mizuna, rocket, dill
- calendula, cornflower, poppy, nasturtium, borage and sweetpeas.

Tray sow:

- salads, silverbeet, kale, broccoli, cabbage, peas, parsley, chives, spring onions, red onions, brown onions and shallots
- set up a heatpad for tomato, chilli, pepper, basil and aubergine, zucchini, cucumber, melon, squash, pumpkin, dwarf beans and climbing beans.

Direct or tray sow:

- beetroot, spinach, saladings, bok choy, broadbeans, coriander
- snapdragon, aquilegia, viola, wallflower, larkspur, hollyhock, cleome, marigold, zinnia, alyssum, cosmos.

Transplant:

- celery, broccoli, cabbage, bok choy, kale, silverbeet, parsley, saladings, red onions, brown onions, spring onions, potatoes, peas
- zucchini, cucumber, melon, dwarf beans, climbing beans, soya beans, basil, marigold, tomatoes, chillies, aubergines, basil and peppers in the greenhouse, or outside as soon as the soil hits 20C
- fast-growing potatoes such as Liseta, Rocket or Swift or even Cliffs Kidney – planted now, they'll be ready to harvest for the Christmas table. If your soil is still cold and wet, plant them into buckets or sacks.
- divide and plant rhubarb and perennial herbs or flowers into any gaps. Jam them in so as to leave no room for weeds.

■ Kath 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.

EDIBLE GARDEN



KATH IRVINE



Lettuces grown on a heatpad and pricked into cells.

Spring brings a special joy back to the garden.

Help to shape the future of Ōtaki

Be part of the kōrero and share your ideas about what future health and wellbeing services could look like in our community.

Our vision is to raise the health and wellbeing of the Ōtaki community, and we need your help to do this by participating in the short 2023 Tirohia survey.

The Tirohia project will help to guide us and tell us what the future of Ōtaki might look like, and where your needs are.

Take part online www.tepunaoranga-otaki.nz



TE PUNA ORANGA O ŌTAKI



TIROHIA

PAKIHI/Business

How KPIs and metrics can transform SMEs

Recent research from the Wellington Centre of Business Excellence identified the key obstacles that hinder SME business owners from achieving success.

It highlights five crucial factors that keep business owners up at night:

1. Know your numbers – One of the primary challenges faced by SMEs is a lack of understanding of their financial and non-financial numbers. Without a clear direction and a strategic vision, business owners can find themselves aimlessly wandering, unsure of where they are headed. Imagine driving from Wellington to Auckland without a map – you could end up anywhere. To overcome this hurdle, it's essential to know and monitor your financial and non-financial metrics to gain a clear understanding of your business's performance.

2. Strategic direction: Many entrepreneurs enter the business world with enthusiasm and a desire to generate income quickly. However, focusing solely on paying the bills and making ends meet can hinder long-term success. It is crucial to establish a clear strategic direction for your business, one that goes beyond immediate financial needs. Without a strategic plan in place, your business might struggle to thrive and

grow.

3. Marketing and acquiring clients: Marketing to and acquiring clients is fundamental to the success of any business. However, many SMEs struggle in this area. Attracting and retaining customers in a competitive market requires effective marketing strategies and consistent efforts to stand out.

4. Talent Management: In a market with a labour shortage, it becomes even more critical

to develop effective marketing strategies to attract and retain customers. Talent management is also vital, as building winning teams can significantly affect the growth and success of your business.

5. Operational efficiencies: Efficiency and effectiveness in delivering goods or services are essential for SMEs. Being consistent in your operations,

keeping costs down, and ensuring quality are crucial factors that contribute to long-term success. By focusing on operational efficiencies, you can enhance your business's overall performance and reputation.

The power of KPIs and metrics

Now, let's dive deeper into the importance of KPIs and metrics. Without these vital tools, businesses face three significant challenges.

• Firstly, a *lack of insight* into the overall performance and health of the business. KPIs

and metrics provide a clear understanding of what is happening and act as a *scorecard for measuring success*. They enable you to make necessary adjustments and improvements.

- Secondly, making decisions based on gut feelings and guesswork rather than data-driven insights can lead to *poor decision-making*. By implementing robust KPIs and metrics, you can make informed decisions that drive your business forward.
- Lastly, without proper measurement tools, businesses *miss out on growth opportunities*. Allocating resources effectively and making strategic decisions becomes challenging without a clear understanding of what works and what doesn't. Good KPIs and metrics enable businesses to optimise their performance, increase agility, and boost confidence in decision-making.

Implementing effective KPIs and metrics

To ensure successful implementation of KPIs and metrics, three key factors come into play.

- First, *relevance and alignment* are crucial. Identify the key metrics that align with your potential issues and respond promptly.
- *Regular review* is equally important. KPIs and metrics should be reviewed frequently, ideally weekly. This enables you to stay on top of your business's performance, make necessary adjustments, and seize opportunities for growth.
- Finally, *data visualisation* is essential. A simple dashboard that displays your key metrics can

provide a clear snapshot of your business's performance. Consider incorporating metrics such as leads, conversion rates, average dollar sale, margin, and gross profit dollars per person per period. A well-designed dashboard can help you make data-driven decisions and increase overall efficiency.

Conclusion

Incorporating effective KPIs and metrics into your business strategy is crucial for achieving long-term success. By understanding your numbers, establishing a strategic direction, mastering marketing and acquiring clients, and focusing on operational efficiencies, you can drive your business forward. Implementing relevant and aligned KPIs, regularly reviewing performance, and utilising data visualisation tools will empower you to make informed decisions and optimise your business's overall performance.

Remember, success lies in the details, and KPIs and metrics provide the roadmap to reach your business goals. Start implementing these practices today and watch your business thrive.

If you don't know the numbers in your business, the chances are good you can't "keep score"!

■ *Focus, accountability and mentoring are the keys to building a better business. To do things better, book a free 30-minute consultation to see what in my 25+ years in business can shift the dial for you. Call 022 2332 669 or see centreforbusinessexcellence.com*

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The value of enduring powers of attorney

Enduring Powers of Attorney (EPAs) can be invaluable documents.

They're usually something people don't tend to think about until they are getting on in years, but there's no reason you can't get EPAs in place earlier on, too.

What are EPAs?

EPAs are a legal document in which someone appoints another person or persons to act on their behalf. Often this is because someone is getting older or is in poor health.

There are two kinds of EPAs: one concerns property; the other personal care and welfare.

A property EPA appoints one person, or multiple people, to act as "attorneys" for the appointor. The attorney/s can act on behalf of the appointor in relation to property, which could include any assets, bank accounts, houses, etc. For example, an attorney could close a bank account for the appointor, or open one, or sell their house because they need to move into residential care.

A personal care and welfare EPA appoints only one person to act on behalf of the appointor in relation to their personal care and welfare, which could mean making decisions about medical treatment, hospitalization, or where the appointor lives and receives care.

An important difference between the two kinds of EPAs is that with a property EPA, the appointor can choose that the EPA comes into effect either immediately, or only upon the appointor losing "mental capacity." Whether someone has lost mental capacity is something only a doctor can decide. Many people choose for a property EPA to come into effect

immediately because it means whoever they have appointed can help them do things that might be difficult for them to do themselves because of their physical health. Personal care and welfare EPAs, however, can only come into effect on the loss of

mental capacity.

Choosing an attorney

It's crucial to think carefully when choosing someone (or multiple someones) to act on your behalf with an EPA. It's a bit like choosing an executor of a will – who do you think you can trust to help you, speak on your behalf, and make important decisions on your behalf if you are unable to? Unlike a will, EPAs are for when you're alive, not after you have died.

An attorney under an EPA is legally obligated to promote and protect your best interests. They should also encourage you to make your own decisions and act on your own behalf as much as is possible.

There are various conditions that can be put in an EPA that attorney/s would need to comply with. This could include consulting with other people, providing information to someone else, or limits placed on the kinds of decisions the attorney can make.

Ultimately, EPAs should provide peace of mind that someone you trust has the legal authority to act on your behalf and make decisions you might no longer be able to make.

■ *Brooke works mostly in the Levin office of Wakefields Lawyers, and occasionally at Ōtaki and Foxton.*

MATTERS OF LAW



BROOKE MCGOWAN

Trust key to Gardner Homes reputation



One of the Gardner Homes houses, above, and below, one of their versatile cabins.

Photos supplied

Business can't get more "local" than Gardner Homes. It's an attribute owners Kylie and Hadley Gardner appreciate as a bonus.

The business began back in 2005, established by the born-and-bred couple. Hadley was fresh out of a building apprenticeship and Kylie was "doing the books" when she was free from her full-time job. Kylie now handles the sales, marketing and financial management of what is a well-established business in the local building market.

Gardner Homes has built more than 100 houses in Ōtaki, many sold as affordable land/house packages in subdivisions they have established in the town.

Kylie says being local is a big advantage.

"We know a lot of people here, we have whānau here," she says. "And we understand that doing business is all about trust. We've worked hard to



build that trust so our clients can be confident we'll do the right thing, right through the building process.

"The most important thing for us is to build a relationship with clients so they walk into their new home feeling excited.

"It's a buzz for them and for us."

Kylie is particularly keen on helping

people buy their first home, which she says is often not as difficult as it seems.

"I talk to a lot of people who have good jobs and earning good money, but they're renting. Often the rent is about the same as a mortgage.

"They might not have much for a deposit, but we work with a great mortgage broker and we've been able to

help people into a new home that they never thought possible.

"I see it as securing a better future. Yes, you have your own home, but you're also creating an asset so you can help your children, and grandchildren."

Having an architectural draughtsman on the team has helped to create some stunning new Gardner houses. However, with an ethos also aimed at affordability, Kylie and Hadley offer their own branded and designed Marika houses.

These are houses ready to locate wherever the client has some land. As 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom designs, starting price is \$285,000 plus GST.

They've found themselves on some of Ōtaki's large sections, in front of or behind existing houses, where there's enough space for family members to feel they have a home of their own.

"Sometimes people who have lived in the old house move to the new one in their retirement and give up the original house for another family member," Kylie says. "There are all sorts of options for people who need a home and can afford to live on a property through arrangements with the family.

"It's something that we can talk through with people."

Meantime, Gardner Homes also rents out its own cabins, the small ones for as little as \$75 a week. Slightly larger ones are 4.6m x 2.4m. They can be delivered to any accessible property.

There are now many of them being used throughout the region for people who are looking for an extra room, extra storage, an office, or even more space for a business. They're built from quality materials with a stylish exterior and a small deck at the front. Every cabin is fully insulated and elevated, with carpet, curtains and ply interior.

■ Gardner Homes: 027 549 0985 or 06 364 8493. gardnercabins@gmail.com
Web: gardnerhomes.net.nz and gardnercabins.co.nz Office: 14 Titoki St, Ōtaki

"The most important thing for us is to build a relationship with clients so they walk into their new home feeling excited."

– Kylie Gardner



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OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS

Compiled by Debbi Carson



The following letter arrived recently. Please contact Anne if you were in this class, or can help. *“While travelling through Ōtaki in May 2022, and stopping for a coffee, I cut out an article about old Ōtaki school photos that you had compiled. My mother, Lucy O’Hara, in the 1940s attended Ōtaki Convent (1944-1945) after she was orphaned at the age of 13. I am looking for some information about her time there and with luck a photo of her. Mum remembered her classmates to be Jose Marchment, June and Edna Carrick, and Ngaire Dickson. She also remembered the weekly dosing of hair with kerosene for head lice treatment! This treatment led to Mum’s blonde hair falling out and her new hair regrowth was red! When she returned to Whanganui, aged 15, to join her siblings and to start work, they thought she had dyed her hair. Her sister, Rosaleen O’Hara, also attended for a couple of years (1946-1947). The photo attached (possibly standard 6, 1947) is the only photo we have of their time at the school. Rosie is in the front row fifth from the left. Sadly both Lucy and Rosie have now passed on. Do you know of someone in the area who has any information about Ōtaki Convent for the period 1944-1947 and perhaps more photos of that era? Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.”*

– Anne Kendrick, Whanganui. 021 022 22 658 mikann@orcon.net.nz



LAST MONTH’S PHOTO: ŌTAKI COLLEGE, 1960, Form 3. Back row from left: Colin Page, Robin Webster, Colin Knox, Paul Blackley, Peter Sharp, Peter Arcus, Malcolm Tucker, Lindsay Yates and Neil Stewart. Front row: Teacher Hilton Burt, Valerie Purchase, Linda Morgan, Louise Atkins, Kathleen Holling, Leonie Sutton and Jocelyn Manz. Absent: Tony Beck. Thanks to Tony Beck and Linda Ludlow (nee Morgan) for the names.

Desperate search for a story reveals . . . nothing

When my search for a story reaches the desperation stage, I seek inspiration from something I find at the museum.

So, late yesterday afternoon – which happened to be a Saturday – I hopefully entered the building. Getting the keys from their hook, I unlocked the door to the main collection store, which is formed by two rooms.

A long time ago now, the building operated as the Bank of New Zealand. It accommodated the manager and his family. The first part of the private rooms was the dining room, and the second was the kitchen.

Turning on the light, I wondered where to start my search for a story.

The former dining room now contains four shelving units. Each of them has three of what are identified as bays, and the majority of bays have five to seven shelves, and a smaller number have what I would describe as slots; for storing items such as paintings and prints. I was now starting to understand my search would not be an easy or quick one – 4 units x 3 bays x 5 shelves = 60 locations in which items could be stored.

As if that wasn’t troublesome enough, in the first bay of the first unit, I counted 22 boxes and one suitcase with items inside them. In the second bay, there were 54 boxes containing among them items described as “People”, “Rangiātea”, “Building the Marae” and “Pukekarakā”. The third bay contained 36 boxes.

That meant there were 112 boxes in just the first unit.

Nothing of use found, I turned around to the second shelving unit. Among the items stored here were 44 silver-plated prize cups, which appeared to be for tennis and swimming successes. There

were also two large, what must have been registers of medicine issued to local residents – names and prescriptions written meticulously, microscopically and densely – in elegant copperplate.

No success, so the third shelving unit had to be searched.

The first bay was full of assorted photographs and prints, which from a cursory look did not appear to offer any interesting story opportunities.

The second bay contained 21 boxes. Noting and opening one that contained three horseshoe nails – with genuine rust – was offset by one that contained a hand-carved chess set. It had been carved by a Dr Leonard Boor, who arrived in New Zealand in 1854, and was one of the first three doctors in Wellington.

The third bay included 15 boxes, one of which was labelled “Smoking Paraphernalia”. Lifting the lid of this, I glimpsed a large number of pipes before being overwhelmed by the odorous and lingering perfume of embedded nicotine.

I gave the fourth unit only a brief scavenger. It was dominated by a large number of paintings and prints, a multitude of CDs, and the records of the Ōtaki Bowling Club.

Dining room finished, I glanced into the former kitchen. So far, I had hints of coming across something worthwhile, but nothing had hooked the brain. Consequently, I was not particularly optimistic about any success in that space.

Looking through the door, I could see it was dominated by a clutter of large objects – irons, a pram, instruments from a brass band, gardening and woodworking tools, shovels and forks, and items from the Hyde Park Museum at Te Horo.

I was aware, though, that not so long ago we had found in there photographs of tūpuna that had now been returned to their whānau. Who knew, then, what might happen?

What happened was nothing to prompt a story. Disconsolately, I trudged back to the entrance, turned off the light, and locked the door. Leaving the museum, I wondered what on earth I could write about, now that my search had ended in failure.

DAVID LEDSON



Otaki Museum

Utaina preserving audiovisual ‘precious freight’

By Paul Meredith, Pou Ārahi
Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision

As I write this, our audiovisual Archive is about two years into a multi-year project called Utaina.

Utaina is a joint initiative by Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision, Archives NZ and the National Library. Its goal is to digitise more than 400,000 items from the Crown’s audiovisual collection, which were recorded on magnetic mediums such as videotape.

Magnetic formats were cheap and easy to use, but they were not designed to last a long time. The equipment to play these items is obsolete and the tapes are decaying, despite being stored in climate-controlled vaults. Compatible players are becoming rare and hard to maintain, spare parts are no longer being made and most technicians are old enough to retire. This all means it’s now or never for digitising recordings on magnetic media before they become impossible to retrieve.

The project name, Utaina, has been interpreted as “load the precious freight on board!”, a catchphrase of Sir Apirana Ngata when advocating for recording and preserving Māori language and heritage. We chose it to reflect the urgency of bringing this content with us into the future, rather than leaving it behind.

So far, more than 100,000 items have been digitised, dating from the 1940s to the early 2000s. Most come from the Television New Zealand collection, which Ngā Taonga is responsible for storing and preserving. Items in the collection date back to and include the whole spectrum of television programming during the 20th century. There are news programmes such as *Te Karere* and *Holmes*, dramas such as *Shortland Street*, game shows, historic events such as the *Wahine* disaster and so much more.

As the pou ārahi (deputy chief executive Māori) at Ngā Taonga, and a resident of Ōtaki, I have a special interest in records about this area and its rich heritage.

When I visited the project headquarters in Lower Hutt recently, I looked at some of the taonga Māori items that have recently been preserved. I was pleased to see a lot of items depicting Ōtaki history and everyday life have already made it through the digitisation process.



Just a fraction of the TVNZ collection in storage.

Photo Troy Coultts, Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision

One highlight for me was a 1982 *Koha* episode about the Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, which at that point was already almost 100 years old. It’s not just the dramatic events, but the familiar aspects of community life and the people, many of whom have passed on, that make these recordings precious.

To save these memories, we now have huge servers filling up with terabytes of television shows and other audiovisual taonga that would otherwise have become permanently unwatchable. Items such as the *Koha* episode already mentioned are not yet publicly available, but our hope is that they will be available for the public in the future. For now, people can be assured that the faces and voices of the 20th century are much safer from being lost or forgotten than they were two years ago, and there is a lot more precious freight still to load. Work on Utaina is planned to continue through to 2026.

Utaina ngā taonga hei tuku iho ki ngā whakatupuranga kei te heke mai, me whenā ka tika.

■ Ngā Taonga has a huge number of recordings that capture New Zealand life. See ngataonga.org.nz. Get the Ngā Taonga newsletter using the Sign Up button at the bottom of the home page.

Commissioner calls for indigenous language protection

The following is an address by Māori Language Commissioner Professor Rawinia Higgins to the United Nations General Assembly in December 2022.

Governments must use their power to protect irreplaceable pieces of our human identity.

Aotearoa New Zealand has shown that an endangered indigenous language can become a powerful uniting force. Indigenous languages can unite nations at a time where we need to unite more than ever before. We invite the rest of the world to join us.

E ngā reo o ngā hau e whā, tēnei te reo rahiri o Te Whare o te Reo Mauri Ora ki a koutou katoa. Ko Rawinia Higgins tōku ingoa, ko au te Toihau o Te taura Whiri I te reo Māori.

To the many languages and the peoples of those languages, I bring greetings from the House of the Living Language, Te Whare o te Reo Mauriora to you all. My name is Rawinia Higgins, and I am the Māori Language Commissioner in Aotearoa, New Zealand. I'm honoured to represent the peoples of Te Moana-nui-ā-kiwa, the Pacific, the largest of the United Nations social cultural regions.

While some think oceans separate nations, for indigenous peoples we aren't separated by oceans – we are connected by them. Our ancestors navigated, explored and settled a third of the surface of the planet, long before our colonisers, mapping our languages along the way. As my late friend Dr

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori

September 11-17

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori, or Māori Language Week, is an annual campaign led by Te Taura Whiri promoting te reo as New Zealand's language and a language for all New Zealanders. Every year we are encouraged to give te reo Māori a go. The theme of Kia Kaha Te Reo Māori – making the language stronger – continues this year. The campaign is an essential piece of the puzzle to achieving the goal of one million speakers of te reo Māori by 2040.



Teresia Teaiwa said: "Pacific people sweat and cry salt water, so we know the ocean is truly in our blood."

Exactly 380 years ago this week, the first European arrived off the coast of Te Waipounamu, the South Island of Aotearoa New Zealand. And the first thing he did was rename the land he saw. It turned out he was lost. So when he returned to Europe, another random name was chosen for my homeland. When I passed through Customs the other day, that same random name was still on my passport. Yet at home many of us are calling it Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Indigenous peoples have been fighting for basic rights for generations. The rights to our lands, environments, identity, language, and culture.

Fundamentally, the right to exist as the indigenous peoples of our respective homes. We are still fighting. Like others here today, our language was banned in schools, our children were punished

for speaking Māori and told it was of no value. Our language was forcibly replaced with English.

Our people's battle for the Māori language has been fought in our homes, on our streets, in our classrooms, courts and in our Parliament. Fifty years ago, less than 5 percent of Māori children could speak Māori. Today, it is now the first language of nearly 25 percent of Māori children thanks to our collective efforts. We are on a journey and although we're not there yet, we're making good time. It takes one generation to lose a language and three to restore it as a living language.

So how did this happen for us in Aotearoa, New Zealand?

Firstly, Māori people mobilised through grassroots community initiatives that have now become institutions of our society. Secondly, the government used the law to protect our language, establishing a Māori Language Commission 35 years ago

and then partnering with Māori people and creating Te Mātāwai in 2016.

And finally, more New Zealanders are embracing our language and are helping to normalise it. Eight in 10 New Zealanders now see te reo Māori as part of their national identity, while three in five of all parents want their children learning Māori in school.

We are a nation of five million mostly mono-lingual, non-Māori people. Yet in the middle of the Covid lockdown when we called on our country to get one million people speaking, singing and celebrating our language at the same time, 1.1 million people joined us. While some critics thought protecting our language in law would divide us, it has done the opposite. The Māori language does not separate us. Like our oceans, our language unites us.

Despite our advances, the story is not the same across our region. If current trends continue, we will lose 250 languages by the end of the decade. And of the world's languages, one in five are from the Pacific and they are under threat. In the Pacific, severe weather events are devastating island nations, costing trillions and forcing people to move.

Changes to the environment pose significant threats to Pacific peoples and languages.

These are not just natural disasters; they are a result of human inaction and therefore humans must take action to address them. We cannot sit idle and allow climate change to displace Pacific peoples to other nations where their



Māori Language Commissioner Professor Rawinia Higgins

languages might not be welcomed and where they might not thrive.

Our ancestors explored and settled the Pacific Ocean using our own indigenous knowledge and our own languages. We are also on a journey today and just like in our ancestors' time, there are no passengers. Everyone has a role to play, governments have the most powerful role of all. Governments must use their power to protect irreplaceable pieces of our human identity. Languages tell the stories of humanity. They are an anchor to our past and a compass to our future. Aotearoa New Zealand has shown that an endangered indigenous language can become a powerful uniting force. Indigenous languages can unite nations at a time where we need to unite more than ever before. We invite the rest of the world to join us.

Kia ora.



Kōrero mai
Have your say

We're reviewing the policies we use to help minimise the harm in our communities from TAB and pokie machine gambling, and smoking and vaping.

Key proposals include:

- Adopting a sinking lid approach to the number of pokie machines and venues in Kāpiti.
- Not consenting any standalone TAB venues.
- Expanding smokefree zones beyond parks and playgrounds, to include vaping in the policy.

Consultation closes 2 October 2023

Gambling harm is a significant social and economic issue, and pokies are the main form of gambling help is sought for in New Zealand.

Smoking is the biggest cause of preventable death in New Zealand and the leading risk to health for New Zealanders, especially Māori and Pacific communities.

▶ Visit kapiticoast.govt.nz/haveyoursay to learn more and provide feedback on the proposed changes.

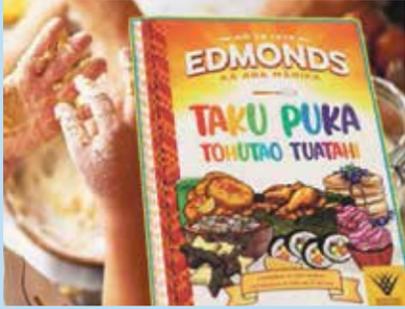
TAMARIKI FUN

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

OT KIDS' NEWS

TAKU PUKA TOHUTAO TUATAHI

For more than 100 years, the Edmonds brand has been used in kitchens across Aotearoa. Now, a te reo Māori



version of their children's cookbook, *My First Cookbook*, is to be launched. The beautifully illustrated cookbook, *Taku Puka Tohutao Tuatahi*, is designed for tamariki, but it's being hailed as a fantastic tool for those learning the Māori language.

Dr Jen Martin, the book's translator, says: "By producing these kinds of books, we're publishing resources to support the use of te reo in the context of cooking and baking. "It supports parents as they find ways to use te reo among themselves and their kids."

This te reo version includes the delicious recipes from the English edition as well as popular Māori dishes such as raw fish and boil-up.

The cookbook is part of the Kotahi Rau Pukapuka initiative, which is aimed at producing 100 high-quality reo Māori books. The project has already brought into te reo Māori titles such as *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, *Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet*, and Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist*.



Photo: Canoe Racing New Zealand

KIWI K4S KAYAK WIN - FIRST EVER!

New Zealand's kayaking scene is buzzing as three new world champions emerge from the 2023 ICF Canoe Sprint & Paracanoe World Championships in Duisburg, Germany. The Kiwi women's K4 crew achieved an incredible victory in their 500m event, marking a historic moment for New Zealand's kayaking legacy. Lisa Carrington, already a record-holder with 14 world championship gold medals, along with teammates Alicia Hoskin, Olivia Brett and Tara Vaughan, clinched the win. They are the first K4 team from New Zealand, regardless of gender, to secure a world championship title. An ecstatic Carrington shared her pride post-race, emphasising the power of teamwork. "We've poured so much effort into this," she said during on-site commentary. "This is what happens when a team works together."

The New Zealand team achieved their victory in a time of 1.30.606, outpacing Poland by just under a second. Spain secured the bronze medal.

KIWI IN DEBUT FORMULA ONE RACE

Motor racing driver Liam Lawson has completed his debut race in Formula One. Liam finished 13th at the Dutch Grand Prix, which was won by Red Bulls' Max Verstappen. Liam was a late call up for the race after AlphaTauri driver Daniel Ricciardo broke his hand.



The 21-year old is the 10th New Zealander to race in Formula One. AlphaTauri's head of vehicle performance, Guillaume Dezoteux, was impressed with the Kiwi driver, who was recently racing in the Super Formula Championship in Japan. "He did a very good job, learning about the car and adapting to the conditions, which were constantly evolving."

COLOURING COMPETITION



NAME:

AGE:

PHONE:

WORD MAKER

SPRING

Spring is one of the four seasons, succeeding winter and preceding summer. When it is spring in the Northern Hemisphere, it is autumn in the Southern Hemisphere and vice versa. Spring refers to the season, and also to ideas of rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, resurrection and regrowth. Subtropical and tropical areas have climates better described in terms of other seasons, e.g. dry or wet, monsoonal or cyclonic. How many words can you make from the word spring? Answers are on page 22. Good luck, and have fun.

You can make 49 words from Spring! And if you don't know the meanings look them up.



KYUSS'S SEPTEMBER WORD SEARCH

Circle the letters as you find the word.

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

SWORD

PIE

PLAN

CHICKEN

HAIR

LEVEL

SPEED

ICE

DANCE

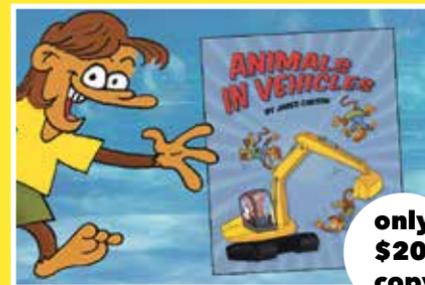
EMBARRASSED

Fish Musicians

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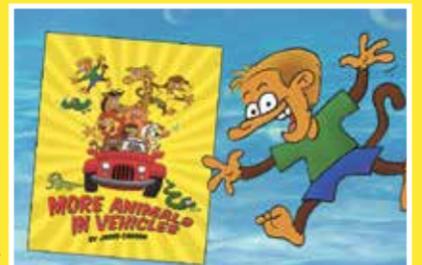
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Cost of raging against the tide

On the most recent anniversary of a car accident I had, I did the work of reflecting and processing through writing, then having the kōrero with my kids like I always do.

Because I thought some of that conversation was worth sharing with my mates, I did. Overnight, a truckload of people overseas started commenting on it with some ugly and unkind stuff. Some of the kōrero was so hurtful, friends started reaching out to check if I was OK and to āwhina or support me.

It made me reflect on two things. Firstly, how awesome it is to have mates who will reach out when they think someone needs it. Be that mate!

Secondly, it reminded me how important it is to know what's in our control, *and* what we care about enough to spend time trying to control.

The kiwi doesn't care if the tide is in or out – it can wander the forest floor at night regardless, sniffing out kai in the domain of Tāne Māhuta.

The tōrea (oyster catcher) does care about the tide. Where the sea rests on the shore directly affects the kai that bird can access. But it can't control the tide. It doesn't try.

If it spent the day crying and flying

at the incoming or ebbing waterline, trying to hurry along the lower tides, it would exhaust its strength and lose the energy it needs to walk the shore digging when the time is right to eat.

Back to the people commenting online, can I control what a dozen people I don't know think of a situation they've read about once?

Maybe. I could probably change the minds of some of them. But what's my version of flying at the tide? What would it take me to try and control those opinions?

A lot of time in conversations with each of them. Messages back and forth, probably over days. Frustration at some our conversation being lost in translation.

Can I control it? Maybe.

What's the cost of that control? What kai would I need to give up in spending that time and energy?

That would be time I could instead spend on things that really make me happy, and stuff I'm already responsible for. That happiness is the opportunity cost, that's the actual price I'd pay.

I like to follow the examples and advice from our tuakana (older sibling) birds, but if that's not your thing...

GOOD THINKING



PERA BARRETT

... it reminded me how important it is to know what's in our control, and what we care about enough to spend time trying to control.

If those people understanding me was a box on the supermarket shelf, what would it cost me? What price would I have to pay for the outcome of those people thinking like me?

The price tag I mentioned above is a piece of my happiness and whānau time. Knowing that cost, would I pay it?

Is that control worth the cost? That's an easy "no".

I can't really say I'm the kiwi and don't care at all about what they think of me, a small part wants to let them know they've misjudged me. But I don't care enough to fly at the tide.

So I read those comments, wonder for a minute why they think what they think, and carry on with my day.

Know what you care about.

Know what you can control.

And know what that control will cost you.

Then you can decide where to spend your time.

■ Pera is a rap singer, writer, and founder of Shoebox Christmas. He received the Local Hero award at the New Zealander of the Year awards in 2019.

Shoebox Christmas gets boost from Wānanga

Te Wānanga o Raukawa has joined Pera Barrett's Shoebox Christmas Aotearoa as principal sponsor.

Shoebox Christmas has been providing opportunities for New Zealanders to share their generosity and concern for others, specifically tamariki, by providing gifts at Christmas since 2014.

The motivation, as its slogan says is: "Because every Kiwi kid deserves a choice Christmas".

Shoebox Christmas was developed by Pera, who was born and raised in Ōtaki. It delivers Christmas presents, wrapped in a shoebox, to tamariki in need on Christmas Day. It does this by working alongside schools, preschools, Women's Refuge, and community organisations who identify the tamariki who receive the boxes.

Aside from this, Shoebox Christmas has been offering rangatahi opportunities to learn valuable skills by leading a project, communicating efficiently, using data effectively and modelling from a values-based approach.

Pera says he's excited about the partnership, for several reasons. "Firstly, I'm from Ōtaki and a product of the community, vision and aspirations Te Wānanga o Raukawa sits within. So this just feels right.

"Secondly, our rangatahi development programme started in Porirua with Ngāti Toa Rangatira, which is one of the three iwi Te Wānanga o Raukawa was established to serve.

"Lastly, one of our biggest pieces of feedback from the rangatahi we worked with last year was that they wanted to be recognised in their schooling for the learning and work of coordinating Shoebox Christmas projects."

The long-term vision for the sponsorship by Te Wānanga o Raukawa is to develop, nurture and build the relationship with Shoebox Christmas into a pathway for rangatahi from kura to wānanga, as well as to develop a degree with a clear pathway into any one of Te Wānanga o Raukawa's postgraduate options.

■ There's a simple three-step process for anyone wanting to donate a gift at Christmas. Sign up at shooboxchristmas.co.nz and you'll be told who to buy for (age, interests and school); buy a present your kid will love, ideally so it can fit in a shoebox, and wrap it up; drop it off to their school, or post it, or arrange a Sunday pick up from your local sled driver.



Choosing a school for your child is a tough decision for parents – a decision that is a foundation to your child's future.

Our taonga are sheltered by Pukekaraka, watched over by tūpuna and embraced by Hine-nui-o-te-ao-katoa.

Te Kura o Hato Petera Kaniera/St Peter Chanel School is one of the pillars of the historical Pukekaraka community that threads together Mātauranga Māori, To tātou Whakapono, and the New Zealand school curricula.

The Pukekaraka community was established in 1860 on a 20-acre site through a covenant between Ngāti Kapumanawawhiti and the French based Society of Mary. In that time the community was a bustling trading hub of about 1000 people supported through saw milling, flax milling and horticulture. Trading schooners sailed up the Mangapōuri as far as Convent Road.

A recent re-covenanting heralds a new chapter in this vibrant history with guardianship of the Pukekaraka Faith Community returning to Ngāti Kapumanawawhiti. Alex Hakaraia is the Chair for Pukekaraka.

Pukekaraka representative Oriwia Raureti says, "Establishing the kura in 1894 was a deliberate strategy by our Tūpuna, who had already developed their own knowledge and education system and knew the importance of educating and nurturing tamariki."

Tumuaki Urutakai Cooper adds, "Te Kura o Hato Petera Kaniera now provides a learning environment that weaves together Kura Whakapono (Faith Based), Kura Reo-Rua (Bi-lingual), and Kura Taiao

(Environmental Studies)."

In a world littered with digital amusement, the development of 'peopleness' and critical social and interpersonal skills can be overlooked. Urutakai believes Te Kura o Hato Petera Kaniera equips tamariki for all life's challenges, with learning that reaches beyond the mandated academic requirements.

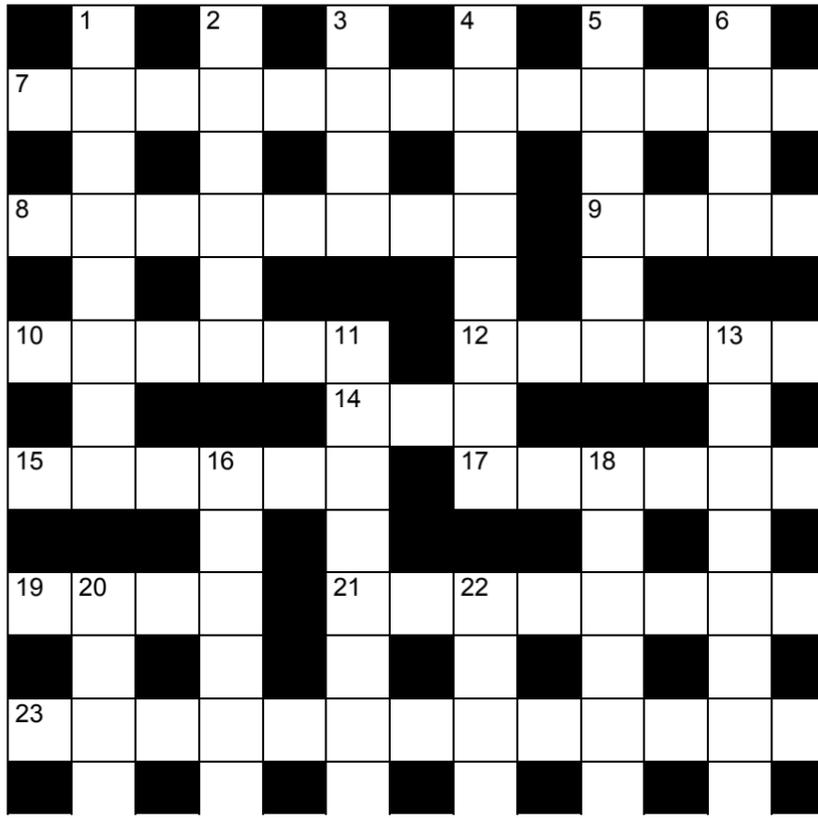
The leaders of the future will need to understand the connectedness of all things, achieve academically, be culturally agile, comfortable with diversity, connected to Wairua and Whenua, and have compassion for the vulnerable.

There are 15 places available for new students in the 2024 academic year.



You can organise a kōrero with the Tumuaiki Urutakai Cooper by contacting the Kura Manager Charlie McNaught on 06 364 8017 or admin@spc.school.nz

THE CROSSWORD #1916K (answers below right)



ACROSS

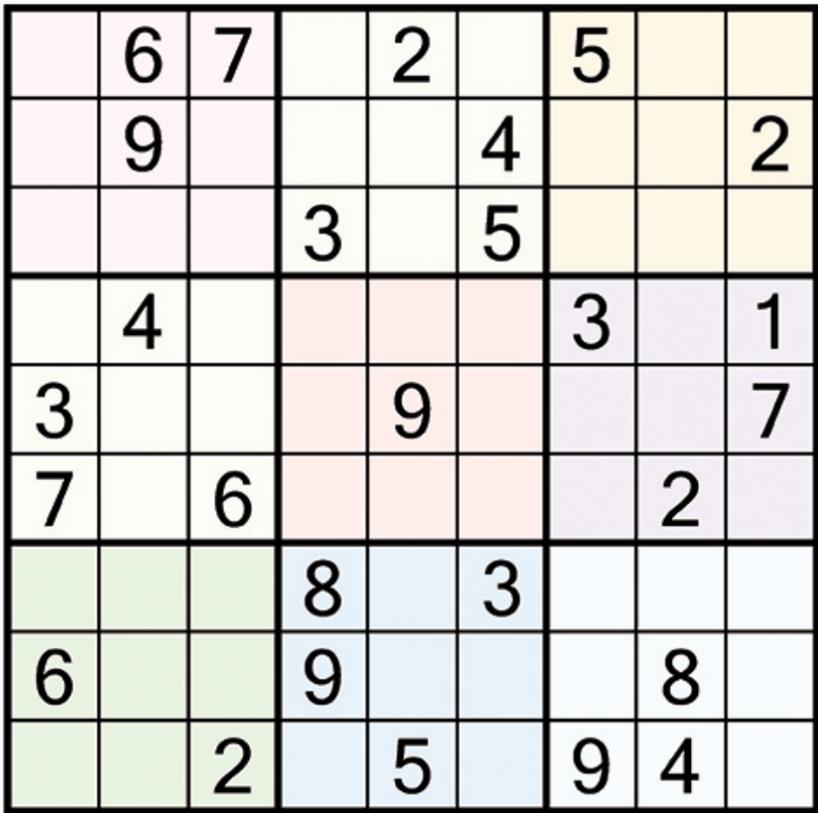
- 7. South Island version of Gisborne's big annual music festival (6,3,4)
- 8. Natural disaster clause once used by insurance companies (3,2,3)
- 9. Label (4)
- 10. The "door" at a winery shop (6)
- 12. Drop considered the "spirit" of Christmas (6)
- 14. Stream dweller (3)
- 15. Get away (6)
- 17. Hostility (6)
- 19. Defrost (4)
- 21. Nickname of Prime Minister Richard Seddon (4,4)
- 23. Well-known NZ cook (7,6)

DOWN

- 1. Draughts, in the US (8)
- 2. Amble (6)
- 3. Self-satisfied (4)
- 4. Unfit for consumption (8)
- 5. Treasure (Māori) (6)
- 6. Junk mail (4)
- 11. Symmetrical way to tie off something (4,4)
- 13. Device used to find something (8)
- 16. For ever (6)
- 18. Alter (6)
- 20. Cradled (4)
- 22. Imminent (4)

SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

HARD #60H 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 27.



CROSSWORD #1916K
 ACROSS:
 7. Rhythm and Alps, 8. Act of God, 9. Name, 10. Cellar, 12. Brandy, 14. Eel, 15. Escape, 17. Enmity, 19. Thaw, 21. King Dick, 23. Allyson Goffon.
 DOWN:
 1. Checkers, 2. Stroll, 3. Smug, 4. Inedible, 5. Taonga, 6. Spam, 11. Reef knot, 13. Detector, 16. Always, 18. Modify, 20. Nigh.

SPRING TIME QUIZ

Answers below

1. What does the term "vernal" mean?
2. What is the name of the condition marked by an excessive fondness for flowers?
3. The Japanese welcome spring by organising significant viewings of what flower?
4. Spring allergies are intensified because of what?
5. In Roman mythology, who is known as the goddess of spring?
6. During spring, why is the day longer than the night?
7. According to legend, if a groundhog doesn't see his shadow when he emerges from his hole on Groundhog Day, will spring arrive late or early?
8. In China, the start of spring corresponds with what annual celebration?
9. What is the official name for the first day of spring?
10. What does the word "equinox" mean?
11. Which ancient building was constructed facing the direction where the sun rises on the first day of spring?
12. Who is the Greek goddess of spring and nature? a: Artemis b: Persephone or c: Hera?
13. The typical implementation of DST is to set clocks forward by an hour in springtime - what does DST stand for?
14. Also a female's name, what is the French word for April?
15. The tulip is a member of what flower family?
16. Primavera, which is the Italian word for spring, is also the title of a large panel painting by which Italian Renaissance painter?
17. Which bird does William Shakespeare associate with spring in his play *Love's Labour's Lost* and also mentions its habit of laying its eggs in other birds' nests in *King Lear*?
18. The *Rite of Spring* is a ballet by which Russian composer?
19. What is the common name of the spring flowering plant narcissus?
20. "May brings flocks of pretty lambs, skipping by their fleecy dams" is a verse from *The Garden Year* by Sara Coleridge. What is a dam?

SPRING TIME QUIZ ANSWERS 1. Spring, 2. Anthophile, 3. Cherry Blossoms, 4. Increase of pollen from flowers, 5. Flora, 6. Because of the tilting of the Earth towards the sun, 7. Early, 8. Chinese New Year, 9. Spring equinox, 10. Equal night, 11. Great Sphinx, 12. Persephone, 13. Daylight saving time, 14. Avril, 15. Lily, 16. Sandro Botticelli, 17. Cuckoo, 18. Igor Stravinsky, 19. Daffodil, 20. Female Mother Sheep

SPRING WORD MAKER ANSWERS from page 20:

5-letter words: 1. grips 2. pings 3. prigs 4. sprig 5. pirns 6. girns 7. grins 8. rings. 4-letter words: 9. gips 10. grip 11. pigs 12. ping 13. prig 14. nips 15. pins 16. pirn 17. rips 18. snip 19. spin 20. gins 21. girn 22. grin 23. rigs 24. ring 25. sign 26. sign 27. rins. 3-letter words: 28. gip 29. pig 30. nip 31. pin 32. pis 33. psi 34. rip 35. sip 36. gin 37. gis 38. rig 39. sig 40. ins 41. rin 42. sin 43. sir 44. sri. 2-letter words: 45. pi 46. gi 47. in 48. is 49. si.

Faith, hope & love -
 and the greatest
 of these is
LOVE.
 -1 Corinthians 13:13



Ōtaki River entrance tides
 September 13 - October 11

<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 13 SEP -	02:21	08:28	14:37	20:45	
THU 14 SEP -	02:56	09:02	15:11	21:16	
FRI 15 SEP -	03:29	09:34	15:42	21:47	
SAT 16 SEP -	04:01	10:04	16:12	22:16	
SUN 17 SEP -	04:32	10:34	16:42	22:46	
MON 18 SEP -	05:03	11:04	17:13	23:17	
TUE 19 SEP -	05:36	11:36	17:46	23:51	
WED 20 SEP -	06:11	12:12	18:25		
THU 21 SEP 00:30	06:52	12:54	19:12		
FRI 22 SEP 01:19	07:41	13:48	20:12		
SAT 23 SEP 02:22	08:43	15:00	21:30		
SUN 24 SEP 04:41	11:01	17:27	23:54		
MON 25 SEP 06:05	12:24	18:48			
TUE 26 SEP -	01:09	07:21	13:35	19:52	
WED 27 SEP -	02:10	08:22	14:33	20:45	
THU 28 SEP -	03:02	09:14	15:24	21:33	
FRI 29 SEP -	03:50	10:01	16:10	22:17	
SAT 30 SEP -	04:35	10:45	16:54	23:00	
SUN 01 OCT -	05:18	11:28	17:36	23:42	
MON 02 OCT -	06:00	12:09	18:19		
TUE 03 OCT 00:25	06:42	12:50	19:02		
WED 04 OCT 01:07	07:25	13:32	19:48		
THU 05 OCT 01:53	08:09	14:20	20:40		
FRI 06 OCT 02:45	09:00	15:17	21:43		
SAT 07 OCT 03:48	10:03	16:31	22:58		
SUN 08 OCT 05:04	11:22	17:55			
MON 09 OCT -	00:15	06:23	12:42	19:04	
TUE 10 OCT -	01:18	07:28	13:43	19:55	
WED 11 OCT -	02:07	08:16	14:28	20:35	
THU 12 OCT -	02:47	08:56	15:05	21:10	
FRI 13 OCT -	03:23	09:31	15:39	21:42	



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Razors and pies, and a talented cast

- Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street
- Ōtaki Players, at the Civic Theatre
- Reviewed by Selwyn Boorman

Was Sweeney Todd a victim of his class, and was Mrs Lovett simply a clever businesswoman and an opportunist with her wonderful pies?

These are questions that those who have seen the show will be left to ponder.

Virtue is the luxury of the middle class, but those who are not born into it just have to make do, and if the lack of virtue is convenient then so be it.

Sweeney Todd's wife was the victim of Judge Turpin's lecherous desire, so Sweeney was found guilty of some crime or other and transported to Australia for



The delightful Mrs Lovett, played superbly by Tracy Wills-Wright

life. Nice work if you have the power.

The seething Sweeney, however, returns after 15 years. Dark revenge was on his mind! The barber's chair above Mrs Lovett's pie shop – what could be better? Gentlemen found having their shaves there convenient, not to mention giving those who are born to serve them some gainful employment.

Sweeney's skill with the razor and the chair that delivered their bodies to the oven made a perfect system. And the pies from Mrs Lovett's shop had a unique and compelling flavour.

The songs in this Ōtaki Players performance, though probably not all

that memorable, blend seamlessly into one another, and have an extended note after every verse. But the show is made outstanding by the sheer talent of those who are on stage.

For a start, Todd (Dominic van den Berg) could send a shiver through you just by looking at you. He had a presence and a voice that compelled you to watch him. And if you see his razor it would be wise to make your exit.

Mrs Lovett (Tracy Wills-Wright) was delightful: her looks, her movements and every gesture were natural and quite simply right.

The rest of the cast are people who live nearby, but in the Ōtaki theatre they were altogether different; they engaged and charmed us with their ability. Their talent under the superb direction of Peter Carr combined to make this a spectacle. The devices he used, the use of the stage and opera boxes – what imagination!

And the stage, did I mention the stage? Those who designed it and those who made it deserve our acclaim. They solved the problem of what to do with the barber's chair so that it, well, worked.

Music wise provided by Graham Orchard (who else?) and Andrea King. Orchard would have to be the discreet power behind Ōtaki Players.

Surely this company and *Sweeney Todd* would be right for Wellington's St James Theatre?

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

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TAKĀRO/Sport



Ōtaki pickleball coordinator Karen Turner and fellow player Doug Burke in at game at the Memorial Hall. *Photo Ōtaki Today*

Players in a white line pickle

Pickleball has taken off in Ōtaki, but in a teething glitch, players are having to cope with limited space to play their natural game.

Pickleball Ōtaki rents the Memorial Hall for weekly games, and negotiated with Kāpiti Coast District Council and the Ōtaki Community Board to have white court lines painted on the old wooden floor. The courts are configured similar to tennis courts, but about the size used for badminton.

However, the two courts have been marked out east-west across the hall. It means the back lines are less than a metre from the walls.

"If you have to play a shot from the baseline, you're limited in your ability to swing the bat for fear of hitting the wall, and you can't chase the ball far back from the baseline," says Pickleball Ōtaki coordinator Karen Turner. "You have to be careful not to crash into the wall, so there's a safety issue there, too."

Karen says she's discussing ways for the courts to be re-marked in a north-south configuration.

"There's enough room across the hall to have two courts," she says. "It would mean a narrow fairly corridor between the courts, but that's OK. What it would do is provide plenty of room past the baselines."

Karen says the council has told her it would be expensive to repaint the floor as the current lines would have to be stripped off and the floor resealed. However, she says the old markings could stay and the new ones go over the top.

Pickleball came to Ōtaki only three months ago. After receiving funding from the community board to get established, the group has played every Tuesday in the hall from 2pm to 3pm. A \$3 weekly fee pays for hall hire.

Player numbers are so far about 20 and growing. They're mostly in the retired age bracket. Players are matched with those of similar skills so they can play competitively or just enjoy the exercise in singles or doubles games.

It's a game played throughout the world by all age groups, and is claimed to be the world's fastest-growing sport.

Ōtaki turns it on for region's golfers

Ōtaki Golf Club further cemented its reputation as a top regional venue after hosting the Wellington 72-hole strokeplay tournament on the weekend of September 9-10.

About 80 of the region's top men and women golfers competed in the tournament. It was scheduled to play at Miramar, but Wellington Golf asked Ōtaki to host it.

It proved to be the right move, with glorious weather throughout the weekend and a course that is in pristine condition. Club deputy chair Graeme Baumgart says many golfers commented on how good the course looked and how well it played.

"It's a great course to play on and a tribute to our greenkeeping staff."

Ōtaki also has a reputation as an all-weather course – its sand base lets water drain away in bad weather and helps to make for slick greens.

The competition for the prized Gray Memorial Trophy, played on the Saturday, was incorporated into the weekend's tournament. The trophy honours several golfers of the Ōtaki Gray whānau, starting with Whare Gray in the early 1900s, and later his sons Zane and Ted. All were nationally acclaimed golfers.

Graeme says the Ōtaki club is in good heart, with membership strong.

"We're especially pleased with the number of young players getting into the game," he says.

The winners of both the strokeplay and Gray trophy were Jayden Ford (men) of Judgeford and Cassie Chettleburgh (women) of Manawatu.

Terisa Ngobi MP for Ōtaki

I'm here to help

If you have any questions or issues, please contact my office:

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