

ŌTAKI TODAY

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PĒPUERE/FEBRUARY 2025

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki

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Waerea Winitana attracted plenty of interest with her carving of a kauri block in the tent where carvers of Te Wānanga o Raukawa demonstrated their craft. Her work will be part of the entranceway to Taumanuka, the old Children's Health Camp, where Waitangi Day was commemorated in Ōtaki. *Photo Ōtaki Today*

Crowds out for Waitangi Day

Hundreds of locals and people from throughout the Kāpiti district and beyond came to Ōtaki for Waitangi Day.

This year's theme was Ngā Taonga Tukuīho (ancestral treasures), acknowledging Ngāti Raukawa and hapū, their history and their historical involvement with te Tiriti o Waitangi. The event was at Taumanuka (the old Children's Health Camp).

Of special interest for many visitors was a display in one of the

old health camp buildings outlining the historical significance of Taumanuka and the importance of the land in relation to te Tiriti.

Under scorching summer skies, tamariki cooled down on a slippery slide kept wet by hoses spraying from an Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade engine. Others played traditional Māori games, including pataka, a game using spinning tops made from rocks, wood or gourds. Some had a go at walking on stilts.

Peter Noanoa, who brought some of the games with him from Wellington, said it was great to see the tamariki try things that

might be different. He especially enjoyed watching as they tried to work out how to play, without the use of technology.

"Sticks and stones get us off the phones," he said.

Noting that some older people were also enjoying having a go, he said: "We get old because we stop playing."

The day was organised by Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki and supported by Kāpiti Coast District Council.

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Such a welcome sight at the end of Winter.



WHAT'S ON

KITE MAKING Kitemaker Yvonne de Mille (Yvy), in conjunction with the Friends of The Rotunda, is holding two fundraiser kite-making workshops, open to adults and children (children under 10 accompanied by an adult). Cost \$12 per person. All proceeds to the Friends of the Rotunda. Sunday February 23, 10am-noon, and Saturday March 1, 10am-noon at Yvy's studio, 50 Kirk Street, Ōtaki. Register by phoning 027 442-3106 or emailing ydemille@gmail.com

ŌTAKI KITE FESTIVAL Ōtaki Beach. March 8-9, 10am-4pm. FREE ENTRY.

MĀORILAND FILM FESTIVAL Main St, Ōtaki. March 26-30. maorilandfilm.co.nz

ŌTAKI MUSEUM: The exhibition "From pā and kāinga to baches and seaside villas" tells the stories of the people and changing character of Ōtaki Beach. 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. Museum open 10am-2pm Thursday to Saturday, except public holidays. 49 Main St. 06 364-6886.

TOI MATARAU GALLERY: Maoriland Hub, Main St, Ōtaki. Open Monday to Saturday 11am-4pm. Toi Matarau is a summit for multidisciplinary arts where Māori and indigenous artists gather, collaborate, are inspired and supported. See toi.maorilandfilm.co.nz

TOTE MODERN: Ōtaki Pottery Club's gallery and workshop at Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, Te Roto Rd. Open 10am-3pm Friday to Sunday.

OLD COURTHOUSE GALLERY 239 Main Highway, Ōtaki. Open Thurs-Sunday: 10am-4pm. Closed Public Holidays. 027 435 0408.

OPEN HOME Ōtaki Baptist Church hall, 4-8pm every Tuesday and Friday. A drop-in space for anyone to cook or share a meal, socialise and even take a shower. Everyone welcome, including volunteers.

COMMUNITY BOARDS The Ōtaki Community Board next meets at 7pm, Tuesday, March 11, in the Gertrude Atmore Lounge (attached to the Memorial Hall). The Waikanae Community Board meets next on Tuesday, March 4, at the Waikanae Community Hall, 28 Te Atautu St. The public is welcome at 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

POETRY IN ŌTAKI Ōtaki Library Supper Room, 3rd Friday of each month, 10.30-12pm. All welcome. Contact Philip 021 977 834.

TOI MAHARA, Mahara Place, Waikanae. The Kāpiti Coast's district gallery has reopened bigger and better than ever. See toimahara.nz

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).

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 and Be Fit classes, 10am Friday mornings at Senior Citizens' Hall, Rangitira Street. All welcome.

ŌTAKI LIBRARY - ALL SESSIONS FREE: JP service every Monday 10.30am-12.30pm; Age Concern every 2nd Thursday 10am-noon Greypower 1st & 3rd Thursday 10.30am-1.30pm.

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.

PROBUS CLUB OF WAIKANAĒ CENTRAL. Meet at 10 am on the fourth Thursday of every month at the Waikanae Community Centre, on Utauta Street behind the Waikanae Memorial Hall. New members are always welcome. If you would like to join us please contact Roger Faithfull: probuswaikanaecentral@gmail.com

WRITE YOUR STORY A series of 5-weekly community workshops begin on Friday February 14, 9.30-noon in Paraparaumu Aquatic Centre meeting room. Be inspired! Join the group and get started on your writing project in a supportive, fun environment. Reservations essential contact Angela Robertson Kiaora@angelarobertson.nz 027 633 2821 for details.

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

Bureaucracy under the spotlight

The government's drive for greater efficiency in the public service appears well justified in the light of recent commentary by two senior figures involved in oversight of its performance.

Auditor-General John Ryan is seeking law changes that require ministries and departments to better report on what their spending achieves. New Public Service Commissioner Sir Brian Roche considers there is not enough focus on outcomes, with too many layers of management, too much duplication and insufficient clarity of roles.

The opinions of these top-level officers of the state validate persistent complaints from the private sector over the past decade that the performance of the bureaucracy was often more of a hindrance than an expediter of economic performance.

Ryan, whose seven-year term of office began in 2018, has served in his post under the Ardern, Hipkins and Luxon administrations. This period of observance across the state sector gives his opinions added weight.

He recently told the *NZ Herald* that the government should be able to say what it wants to achieve, how it is going to do so, how much it will cost and what progress is being made. Current reporting by public service organisations does not provide New Zealanders with clear answers, in his view.

For those whole-heartedly committed to the political concept of state control, the words he used about the present system were chilling: "At the moment, the system's kind of over here, and the public are kind of over here. And what joins them together is often anecdote rather than fact."

Ryan identified a practice of changing performance metrics year-on-year as one that makes tracking performance virtually impossible. Much performance reporting was, in his view,

centred on short term measures, with an internal focus. The system could be improved, he believed, through amendments to the Public Finance Act.

Sir Brian echoed much of Ryan's opinions: Too many meetings; too many layers of management; too much duplication; not enough clarity about its roles; and not enough focus on outcomes. He looks for improvements in efficiency, decision-making and responsiveness, while also wanting ministries and departments to be more balanced in their approach to risk.

A former top-level businessman who over 40 years worked either as a consultant to government or in appointed roles, Sir Brian is working on the establishment of a small group of departmental chief executives to find ways of addressing the problems he has identified.

An area that he might like to address is the need for head office reporting to better reflect actual expenditure, rather than the broad allocation of funds that politicians get in accounting reports from departments these days.

During the early 1990s departments switched accounting methods from cash accounting to accrual. The result is virtually "broad brush" reports that show bulk regional expenditure and the general nature of a spend, but not detail. This means that if the bulk spend involves unnecessary expenditure, for example on over-the-top items such as vehicles or accommodation, it can't be picked up by outside scrutineers without specific inquiry.

Thus, parliamentarians overlooking state spending can easily be accepting of, for example, a \$500,000 spend on West Coast conservation that is no more than the previous year. What they probably will not realise is that the sum allocated as "vehicles for wilderness surveillance section" covers two big four-wheel drive automobiles for

office staff who are not involved in wilderness maintenance surveillance other than as desk-bound report and management executives.

Veteran officials say accrual accounting allows a clear determination of what the expenditure outcome should be. But while politicians of government decide the sum to be spent and the outcomes to arise from the expenditure, it is departments who determine how the outcomes are achieved.

In turn, this means that when a major project such as the planned Dunedin Hospital goes awry, the politicians in government can justifiably question the capability of the ministry or department in charge. They are not, however, off the hook because it will be the ruling party's appointed minister responsible for the department whose capability is under challenge.

Current government policy to look more favourably than previous regimes on public-private partnerships for infrastructure provision add a fresh dimension to public service administration. This is because the public side of a transaction demands that requirements a ministry or department wish to be fulfilled under the arrangement are specified in absolute detail.

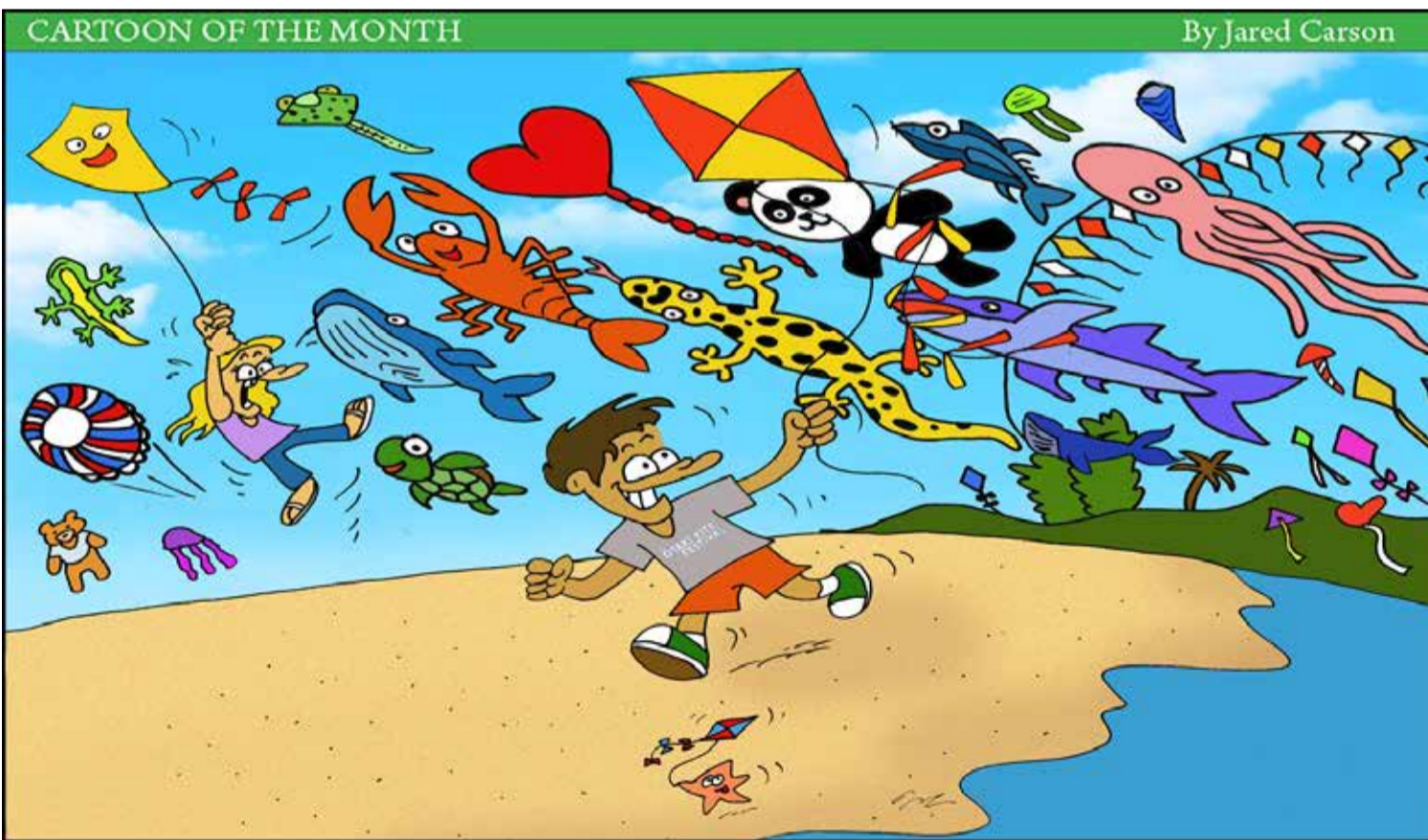
For example, within the construction sector it is often said that an advantage of state agencies doing business with New Zealand companies is the willingness of Kiwi businesses to work through and reach agreements where problems have arisen. The PPP system, however, is very much dependent on clear delineation by the public side of its expectations and requirements for successful delivery of the joint project whether the partner is based in New Zealand or offshore.

The system requires a public service efficient at deal making and precise in its management of projects where detail and risk are a natural accompaniment of the ventures it is undertaking.

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



BRUCE KOHN



ŌTAKI TODAY *Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki*

Ōtaki Today is published monthly by ID Media Ltd, 13 Te Manuao Rd, Ōtaki.

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GENERAL MANAGER: Debbi Carson.
For advertising enquiries, call Debbi on 027 285 4720, or email debbi@idmedia.co.nz
Note Ōtaki Today no longer has a landline.

DESIGN by ID Media Ltd.
PRINTED by Beacon Print, Whakatane.

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Ōtaki Today online: otakitoday.com
ISSUE 80: ISSN 2624-3067
ONLINE: ISSN 2744-354X
Copy and advertising deadlines: First Tuesday of the month.
Delivery: If you don't receive your copy of Ōtaki Today, please contact us.

Ōtaki Today is a member of the NZ Community Newspapers Association





Te Horo Hall committee chair Andrew Annakin, left, receives a Kāpiti Island kohatu mauri (alpine rock) from Karl Webber, gifted to the hall on behalf of Ngāti Toa Rangatira.



Long-time Te Horo resident Barbara Chatters cuts the ribbon to officially reopen the hall. Photos Ōtaki Today

Te Horo Hall reopens 'for future generations'

By Ian Carson

The historic Te Horo Hall was reopened officially on Saturday, February 8, after a hectic year of community fundraising and earthquake strengthening work.

Work on the hall began in August last year, with the last coat of paint applied on January 27. The hall was built at the start of the First World War, in 1914.

During the restoration, fascinating inscriptions were revealed – messages from as far back as 1934 such as a heart painted on a wall with “Joey loves Colleen” on it, a reference to Joe and Colleen Walker. Another said “Ray’s a laugh”.

At Saturday, Te Horo locals – many of whom contributed in significant ways with fundraising schemes, direct donations and volunteer work – mingled with Kāpiti mayor Janet Holborow,

chief executive Darren Edwards, councillors and community board members. The hall is owned by an incorporated society and receives no direct funds from Kāpiti Coast District Council.

The chair of the Te Horo Hall committee, Andrew Annakin, said the community aspect of fundraising was crucial.

He read through a long list of sponsors and supporters who all made the renovation works possible. They included Te Horo individuals and families – including Grant Robertson who came up with the successful “RoadRaise” fundraising concept – corporate sponsors, and the biggest funder, the Lottery Grants Board.

“It was a real community effort, and that’s what gave us credibility,” he said, referring to the task of seeking grants and other funding.

He said phase 2 would get under way soon. It was to raise more

funds to reclad the exterior and reroof the old building.

Waikanae Community Board chair Michael Moore said the hall had been preserved for future generations after being the heart of the community for 110 years – a place of laughter, learning, and celebration.

“Thanks to our community’s dedication, the hall now stands stronger than ever as Te Horo’s emergency community hub.”

He said the earthquake strengthening was more than just a safety measure, but also a commitment to the community’s past and future.

“This space will continue to serve, inspire, and connect us for generations to come.

“Years from now, we will look back and say: we did the right thing. We protected a treasure.”

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Carl Lutz: Farmer who loved the land – and his

■ **CARL ERNEST LUTZ**
 ■ **b. January 17, 1926 d. January 16, 2025**

By Ian Carson

Carl Lutz loved his tractors – Fordsons to be precise. He also loved taking his tractors to the Levin AP&I show, an event he'd been attending since he moved to Ōtaki in 1935.

But this year, Carl didn't quite make it. He died one day short of his 99th birthday, and only three days before the show, where he'd organised for some of his 30 prize tractors to again be on parade.

As a farmer who lived since the age of 9 on a plateau up Rāhui Road overlooking the Ōtaki River, Carl was well known in Ōtaki – and in Levin where he had two more farms. He was a man whose love for the land and family defined his remarkable journey.

Carl was born on January 17, 1926, in Mangaroa, Hutt Valley, to Carl and Yvonne Lutz. In 1935, his family embarked on a three-day journey, droving their livestock over the Akatarawa Ranges to settle at the Ōtaki farm. The move would shape his lifelong passion for farming, stewardship of the land, and commitment to preserving the environment.

The Lutz family's homestead in Rāhui Valley, originally leased, was later bought by Carl's father, securing a legacy that would span five generations. However, tragedy struck when Carl was just 20 years old – his father died after a six-month



Carl Lutz at the 2020 Levin AP&I show with one of his restored tractors. Son Max is watching on from behind. Photos supplied

battle with cancer, leaving Carl junior with the responsibility of running the farm. Rising to the challenge with unwavering determination, Carl saw a bright future in farming and dedicated his life to its success.

He was a visionary farmer. At 14, he left school to help his family, stepping up when his brother, Len, was sent to war. Recognising the potential in dairy farming, he made the bold decision to transition from mixed farming to

a focus on cattle. He was an early adopter of irrigation and fertilisation techniques, ensuring that every calf born on the farm was raised – a practice he maintained for 55 years with immense pride.

His deep connection to the land was reflected in Denton's Bush, a cherished piece of untouched wilderness on the family farm. This sacred place, home to a spring feeding into the Ōtaki River, symbolised his lifelong

commitment to conservation.

Beyond the fields and pastures, Carl was a man of family and community. He met and married Jean, his wife of 53 years, and together they built a life rich with love, hard work, and devotion. Jean, originally from Runanga on the West Coast, was enlisted in the Women's Land Service during the Second World War. An injury redirected her path to Ōtaki, where she worked as a nurse aide for the renowned doctor Gertrude Atmore – also taking on the daily task of milking her cow. Their love story, built on mutual respect and resilience, was the foundation of their family.

Together, they raised four children – Carla, Marlene, Erwin and Max – creating a home filled with warmth, generosity, and a shared commitment to farming. Jean worked tirelessly alongside Carl, managing the household, supporting the farm, and ensuring that the home was always a place of welcome. Her death in 2003 was a profound loss, yet Carl carried on her legacy with strength and dignity.

Later in life, Carl found companionship once more, marrying a dear friend and neighbor, Ngaire Hillis. After nine years was filled with companionship and shared memories, Ngaire also died, in 2016. Despite these losses, Carl continued to live independently on Rāhui Road, fiercely committed to his home, family, and land until the final days of his life.

Carl's legacy in farming extended beyond his own generation. As his children grew, he invited Max and Erwin to either forge their own paths or continue the farming tradition. With his guidance, they embraced the farming



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Fordson tractors

opportunity, expanding the family's holdings in Rāhui Road and Levin. His grandson, Clay, later joined the operation, ensuring that his pioneering spirit and dedication to the land would endure for years to come.

A man of many passions, Carl was possibly best known for his love of Fordson tractors. His fascination began in childhood, with a toy tractor, and culminated in an impressive collection of 30 restored tractors. His first real purchase, at age 18, was a Fordson – choosing it over a motorbike for which he had saved £50.

Some of the restored tractors remain in working condition on the farm, a testament to his skill and dedication. And, yes, seven of his prized tractors were displayed in the grand parade at the Levin AP&I Show.

Another of Carl's great passions was rugby. A dedicated supporter of the All Blacks, he held season seats on the Mallard Stand in Wellington for a decade, never missing a match. Even in his later years, he remained an ardent fan, waking at 3am to watch live games rather than a replay. His love for the sport was so great that, even during a hospital stay, grandson Clay ensured he could listen to a match by placing a phone next to the radio.

Beyond his family and farm, Carl was a dedicated community servant. He was the last surviving member of the local Home Guard that operated during the Second World War, standing as a symbol of resilience and service.

At one of his first Levin AP&I Shows in the 1930s, he and his family won a pony – a cherished early memory that only deepened his connection to the event. In 1975, he proudly

displayed the first restored Fordson in the district, an achievement that reflected both his love for history and his mechanical expertise.

For 55 years, Carl was an active member of the Ōtaki Rotary Club, serving as president and receiving the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship twice in recognition of his contributions. His leadership and generosity extended beyond formal roles – he was always willing to lend a hand, share his wisdom, and support those in need.

When organisers of the Ōtaki Kite Festival called for tractors to anchor the big kites, Carl put up his hand, personally driving a tractor several kilometres from the farm to the beach.

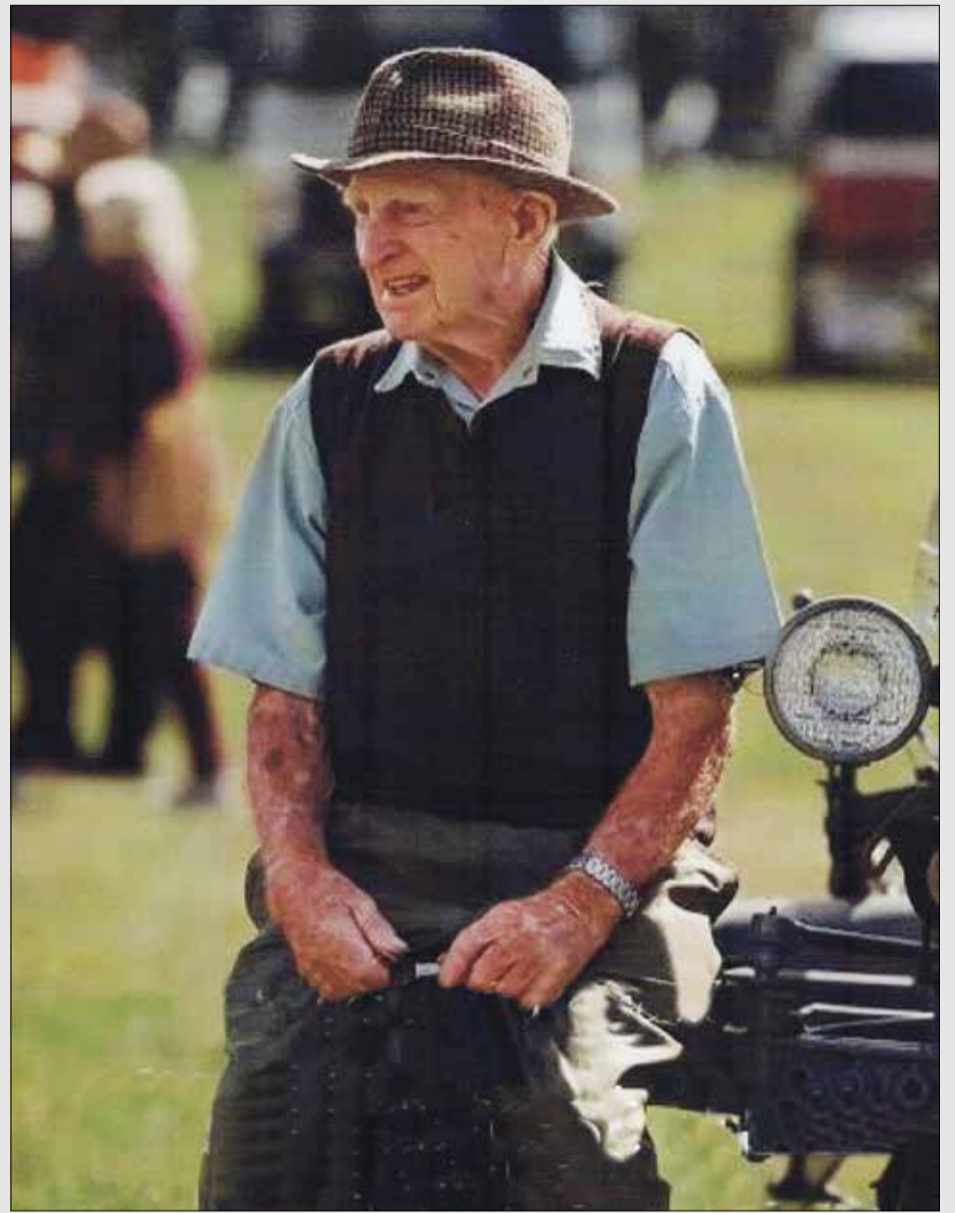
Carl lived a life defined by hard work, innovation, and a deep love for family and tradition. His presence will be sorely missed, but his legacy will continue to inspire those who knew and loved him. His values of perseverance, community, and respect for the land remain deeply rooted in the family he leaves behind.

He is survived by his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family, and many dear friends.

The family will undoubtedly carry his legacy forward with pride.

As a final tribute, Carl's casket at his packed funeral held at Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, was lovingly crafted from macrocarpa trees he had planted decades ago on Rāhui Road, with handcrafted handles carved by his nephew – fittingly, another Carl.

RIGHT: Carl watches proceedings at a recent Levin AP&I show.



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AMONG the many hundreds who enjoyed Waitangi Day commemorations at Taumanuka on February 6 were:

Above, trying out stilt walking were, from left, Aio Estrada, 9, Kataraina Hughes, 10 and Xavier Muriwai-Wilson.

Above right, from left, Wiki Cooper-Galvin, 15, Ropata Easthope, 9, and Raroa Morgan, 9, who were playing a spinning top game called pataka.

Right, long-time locals Francie and Lynda Nicholls, who brought along their pet dogs.

Left, friends Hailey Tahiwī, 12, and Athena Hakaraia.



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Demographic shift offers 'new opportunities'

A shift in demographics throughout the Kāpiti district is offering new opportunities for local businesses, says Chris Wilkinson of First Retail Group.

Chris was speaking at the Southward Car Museum on February 12 for the first Electra Business Breakfast of 2025. The event was titled "What is Kāpiti's sweet spot?"

Sharing his insights on leveraging the unique strengths for economic growth of the district (and Ōtaki), Chris said there was a continuing shift in demographics.

"This is providing real opportunities for Kāpiti," he said. "Increased housing supply across all life stages is enabling the capacity for more younger people and families to live here, creating a noticeable and welcome change in the community."

"This is driving demand for contemporary offers and experiences – which in turn is attracting more people to the district."

Chris is an economic development expert who is no stranger to Ōtaki and the wider Kāpiti district. Recent projects include the Ōtaki Railway retail and commercial strategy commissioned by Elevate Ōtaki.

His presentation focused on identifying and capitalising on Kāpiti's "sweet spot" – the unique combination



Chris Wilkinson of First Retail Group. Photo supplied

of factors that position the district for economic and social success. He emphasised the importance of understanding the district's strengths and differentiators, prioritising sectors that would measurably "shift the dial", and prioritising those that would deliver the greatest, immediate benefit for the community and businesses.

Key themes included:

- Maximising growth in key sectors: Kāpiti boasts strong performance in sectors like construction, healthcare, hospitality and services. Chris highlighted the need to support and expand these industries by removing roadblocks and a culture of making things happen.

- Capitalising on government investment: He emphasised the importance of leveraging upcoming government spending in infrastructure, such as the new Ō2NL (Ōtaki to north of Levin) highway project, to drive economic activity and create new opportunities for local businesses. The district should be hungry for as greater a share of this spending as possible.
- Showcase Kāpiti, strategically: Events create experiences that showcase the district as characterful, unique and fun – aspects that resonate especially well with today's consumers. Kāpiti needs to keep supporting and evolving these activities to drive both economic and social value.
- Identifying quick wins: He outlined several actionable steps that businesses and the community could take immediately to position Kāpiti for success in the year ahead. These included removing barriers, agility in decisions and actions, upskilling the workforce for capability and capacity, and focusing on the areas where Kāpiti can win, quickly. "Kāpiti is at a pivotal point," Chris said. "With careful planning and strategic investment, we can unlock significant economic potential and create a thriving future for businesses and residents alike."

BRIEFS

Rotunda gets building consent

Building consent has been granted for work to begin on restoration of the rotunda at the old Children's Health Camp. The Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda say work can now begin on the first stage of restoration. Part of the work includes installing special weatherboards that have been milled to match the original 1915 profile. The Friends are preparing an application to the Lottery Grants Board to enable the restoration project to be completed by the end of the year. Any volunteers who can help with paint stripping can contact Jennifer Ramshaw at jenniferramshaw@gmail.com.

Blue Bluff slip work starts

A five-month programme of works to clear two slips and reopen the road at Blue Bluff on Ōtaki Gorge Road has begun. About 15,000 cubic metres of debris needs to be removed from the site. The road will then be rebuilt along its original alignment near the overslip. At the site of the underslip, the bank will be cut into and the road realigned further from the river. There will be no pedestrian access through the work site. Walkers will need to use the 4.5km DoC track to access Tararua Forest Park.

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Bode, a locally owned and operated business, invites you to experience the future of sustainable living at our Ōtaki site. Open every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 am to 2 pm, with appointments available by contacting Sales Manager Avi Champaneri at 021 342 013, this is your chance to explore a smarter, more affordable approach to housing.

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John Bertrand Collectables Are Buying In Otaki & Kapiti Coast On 27th & 28th February

Once again, the gold and collectables buyers from Wellington company John Bertrand Collectables are visiting in Otaki and Kapiti Coast on 27th & 28th February. Mr Tony Grant from the company says, "If you are downsizing or wanting to dispose of things because they no longer serve any purpose to you or your family bring them in". The 27th & 28th February will be a great opportunity to have any items you want to sell assessed by our buyers" said Mr Grant. Particularly wanted are Gold and Silver (in any of its forms) and Collectables such as Coins, Banknotes, War Medals, Old Wind-up Watches and other interesting Small Collectables.

"We are keen buyers, especially of the items in the list below" said Mr Grant. "Nothing is too small for our consideration. We are just as happy buying 1 item as we are buying 1,000 items" he said. The buyers will be in Otaki and Kapiti Coast on 27th & 28th February. (see details below). As Tony Grant points out "If you are in doubt about any items you may wish to sell, bring them along for an instant appraisal."



Mr Anthony (Tony) W. Grant

Fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand Incorporated
Director and Buyer
John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd
Author of the John Bertrand NZ Coin & Banknote Catalogue

Gold & Silver At Near Record Prices

During these uncertain times we have seen a sharp increase in the price of precious metals. The gold price in New Zealand is at near record levels so gather up all your unwanted items and take them along to the buyers. Tony Grant says "We can buy old gold items in all forms, including Jewellery (Rings, Chains, Brooches etc), Coins (Sovereigns and the like), Alluvial (River Gold), virtually anything, even Gold Teeth! We also need all Sterling Silver including Cups, Tea Services, Cutlery and Old Coins" he said.



Interesting Small Collectables Wanted

The buyers from John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd, visiting Otaki and Kapiti Coast on 27th & 28th February are happy to look at any interesting items, for example vintage pocket and wristwatches such as Rolex, Men's Omega, Breitling and gold watches etc. Also wanted, pre 1950's picture postcards, Maori and Pacific artefacts, old fountain pens and other small antique or historical items.

"If you have something unusual which you would like to sell, please bring it into one of our venues, we would like the chance to at least have a look at it" said Tony Grant, buyer for the Company. "We will consider anything which may be of interest to a collector" he said.

Some Big Dollars in Early Banknotes

Early New Zealand Banknotes dated before 1932 are currently fetching big money! This is according to Mr Tony Grant, author of the *John Bertrand New Zealand Coin & Banknote Catalogue*. Mr Grant is in Otaki and Kapiti Coast on 27th & 28th February on a buying trip for John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd and would be very keen to see any of these issues. "We will pay at least \$300 for any undamaged Ten Shilling or One Pound

banknote from a New Zealand trading bank dated 1932 or before.

Denominations of five pounds and higher would be worth from \$700. "Any banknote dated prior to 1900 would be worth at least \$1000" said Mr Grant.

Also purchased are any Reserve Bank of New Zealand pre-decimal issues, especially 50 Pound notes. All overseas banknotes are also wanted, especially early Pacific Island issues.

Collectors Need War Medals

Currently, throughout NZ and the world there is a big demand by collectors for war medals. These cover all wars right through from the New Zealand Land Wars and the Boer War, to the First and Second World Wars and the later Korea and Vietnam conflicts. New Zealand Servicemen and Women first served overseas in the Boer War in South Africa around 1900 and the war medals awarded for this service are needed by the buyers, as are any other Medals from early New Zealand and the New Zealand Wars.

General service medals from both the First and Second World Wars will also be purchased, but as can be imagined these were awarded in fairly large numbers. "If a group of medals has any special award for bravery such as the Military Medal, Military or Flying Cross or other medals for Distinguished Conduct or Meritorious Service, these can add great value to a group" stated Mr Tony Grant, buyer for John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd. "Many families have old medals, some dating back to early Imperial days, that they are not sure what to do with. These are better off in the hands of collectors who will look after them. We will be happy to look at any war medals whatsoever, just bring them in to venues" he said.

Old Coins Can Toss Up a Rarity

Do you have a bunch of old coins sitting around in your drawers and cupboards? You just never know what rarities may be lurking there. The advice from Tony Grant from John Bertrand (Collectables) Limited is to "bring them in and let us have a look". "No need to sort anything out just bring them in 'as is' and please don't clean them! We can go through coin accumulations and collections fairly quickly" he said. The buyers are particularly keen to buy pre 1946 New Zealand Silver Coins for at least 20 times their face value (more for quantity). "In any event we will buy All Coins," said Mr Grant.

JOHN BERTRAND (COLLECTABLES) ARE BUYING NOW!!

OLD GOLD

- Unwanted Jewellery or Broken Rings
- Gold Chains
- Gold Watch Cases
- Alluvial (River) Gold
- Dental Gold
- Gold Coins
- Gold Racing & Trophy Cups



COINS

- All Gold & Silver Coins
- Gold Sovereigns
- Gold Half Sovereigns
- NZ Silver Coins 1946 & Before (at least 20 times face value)
- Also wanted NZ & World Coins after 1946
- Australian Silver Coins to 1963
- English Silver Coins to 1946
- NZ 1935 "Waitangi Crown"
- USA Coins up to 1964
- Old Collections & Accumulations of World Coins
- Modern Collector's Coins & Sets
- NZ Reserve Bank Sets



BANKNOTES

- NZ & Australian "Trading Bank" Notes pre 1932 (e.g. Bank of New South Wales, Bank of NZ etc)
- Reserve Bank of NZ Pre-Decimal Notes
- Any £20, £50 or £100 Notes
- Hong Kong & Malayan Banknotes
- Australian Pre Decimal Notes
- Australian "Star" Notes
- Early Fijian and Samoan Banknotes
- NZ Traders Promissary Notes (1840s)
- NZ Government Debentures
- NZ Banknotes overprinted for use in Fiji, Cook Islands etc
- Postal Notes
- All other World Banknotes



GOLD & SILVER

- Racing Cups
- A&P Show Cups
- Sports Cups
- Presentation Keys & Trowels
- Show Pieces
- Sterling Silver Tea Sets
- Sterling Silver Cutlery
- Scrap Gold & Silver

No EPNS or Silver Plated items Please

WRIST & POCKET WATCHES

- Gold & Silver Pocket Watches
- Any Rolex Watches
- Omega Gents Watches
- Any Breitling, Jaeger Le Coultre, Vacheron & Constantin, Patek Philippe, or IWC Watches
- Moon Phase Watches
- Chiming or Alarm Watches (Pocket or Wrist)
- Military Watches
- Divers Watches
- All other pre 1950s wind up watches (parts value only)

No Quartz or Battery Operated Watches Please



TOKENS

- NZ & Australian "Tradesmen's" Tokens
- NZ Transportation Tokens
- Railway Passes
- Tram Tokens (not Dunedin Tramways)
- Presbyterian Church Communion Tokens
- Bread Tokens
- Theatre, Cafe, Discount Tokens etc
- Any other tokens relating to early New Zealand

COLLECTABLES

- Albums & Accumulations of Pre 1920s Postcards (used or unused)
- Old Fountain Pens
- Maori & Pacific Artefacts



No item too small for our consideration

WAR MEDALS ETC

- The New Zealand Wars & Boer War Medals
- 1st World War Medals
- 2nd World War Medals, Stars etc
- Orders and Decorations
- Korea & Vietnam Medals
- Antarctic or other Polar Medals
- Fire Brigade Medals
- Lodge Medals
- Shooting Medals
- Military Badges and all other Military Medals
- Gold returning Fob Medals or "Tokens of Honour" from residents of small town New Zealand

HISTORICAL MEDALS

- A&P Show- Gold, Silver & Bronze Medals
- Commemorative Medals & Medalets
- Prize Medals (Gold & Silver)
- Sports Medals (Gold & Silver)
- Life Saving Medals
- Shipwreck Medals
- Coronation Medals
- etc, etc, etc



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WAIKANAE	Thurs 27 Feb	Waikanae Senior Citizens Centre, 28 Utauta Street	3 pm to 4.30 pm
PARAPARAUMU BEACH	Fri 28 Feb	Ocean Road Community Centre, 45 Ocean Road	9 am to 10.30 am
RAUMATI BEACH	Fri 28 Feb	Kapiti Uniting Church, Community Hall, 10 Weka Road	2 pm to 3.30 pm

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Vote stands after council reconsiders Moy decision

The vote stands – residents near the proposed Moy Estate chalked up their second victory on January 30 when Kāpiti councillors stuck with their original vote in November.

The same councillors voted the same way in the tight 6-5 decision to reject rezoning of a small block of land that would have allowed access to the estate through current residents' quiet cul-de-sac. The residents want access to be via the old State Highway 1.

A statement to *Ōtaki Today* from Mayor Janet Holborow said the decision "reaffirms the decision made by council on 28 November 2024 to decline the transfer of a parcel of land at the end of Moy Place from Local Purpose Reserve (Road) (under the Reserves Act) to legal road.

"The paper was brought back to the table following the receipt of new information in December last year. This included information about opportunities for hybrid dual access and a judicial review being lodged with the High Court.

"I felt that it was important for councillors to reflect on the new information as a judicial review is an expensive process and we are obliged to consider the impact for all ratepayers."

Janet said she acknowledged that this process had been upsetting for the residents of Moy Place and Sue Avenue, "but I stand by the need to ensure we do our diligence and make sure we act in the best interests of the wider community at all times."

The estate developers, Wakefield Group Holdings, lodged a judicial review in December. Papers at the January 30 meeting indicated a judicial review could cost the council anything between \$100,000 and \$200,000.

In January, Wakefield told *Ōtaki Today* that if councillors did not change their mind, "we



Moy Place and Sue Avenue residents at a gathering on February 9 to celebrate their victory. Photo supplied

have faith in the judicial system to ensure that development is not prevented by councillors refusing to follow the law."

The threat of a judicial review was known to councillors when they voted in November. The potential for a hybrid access from both the highway, and Moy Place and Sue Avenue, was not convincing enough for the six councillors who voted against the change of status for the critical parcel of land.

A spokesperson for the residents, Lyall Payne, said they were ecstatic that councillors re-affirmed the November decision, but it should not have gone back for a second vote.

"The mayor stated that new information had come to light as the developer was open to a 'double entrance option,'" Lyall said. "This appeared to be a tactic (albeit highly irregular) to get the vote changed, as no new consents had been either considered or submitted."

Residents were also disappointed that councillors didn't stand behind the democratic decision made in November.

"The vote was a repeat and therefore showed a lack of understanding, by certain councillors, as to the meaning of democracy. It was a show of blatant disrespect for the democratic process as noted by the chairs of all the community boards.

"The council should now fully and wholeheartedly support the majority decision and show unflinching tenacity in the face of the pending judicial review."

Those who voted for the change (on both occasions) were Mayor Janet Holborow, Martin Halliday, Liz Koh, Kathy Spiers and Sophie Handford. Voting against and in support of the residents were Ōtaki-based councillors Rob Kofoed and Shelly Warwick, deputy mayor Lawrence Kirby, Nigel Wilson, Glenn Cooper and Jocelyn Prvanov.

IN BRIEF

No cycleways

NZTA Waka Kotahi has taken the painted cycleways off the plans in a rejig of its revocation work along the Railway area shopping precinct. The transport agency and Kāpiti Coast District Council received representations from the Ōtaki-Te Horo Business Association, Ōtaki Community Board and MP Tim Costley after retailers said they were concerned about a fall in business if the cycleway was installed.

Ōtaki homes at \$595,000

The estimated median price for a home in Ōtaki as of early February was \$620,000, according to website homes.co.nz. That figure is down 4 percent from \$620,000 in early January, and down 0.9 percent from the same time last year. The estimate is based on homes sold.

Speed limit reviewed

The government is reviewing the speed limit on the highway between Ōtaki and Manakau, along with several other roads in the region. Ōtaki MP Tim Costley says there will be short consultations for restoring previous speed limits on the Ōtaki-Manakau road, from Ōhau to Manakau, and on SH57 from Kimberley to Heatherlea East Road at Levin. SH57 south of Graham Street in Shannon will have an automatic speed limit reversal to 70km/h.



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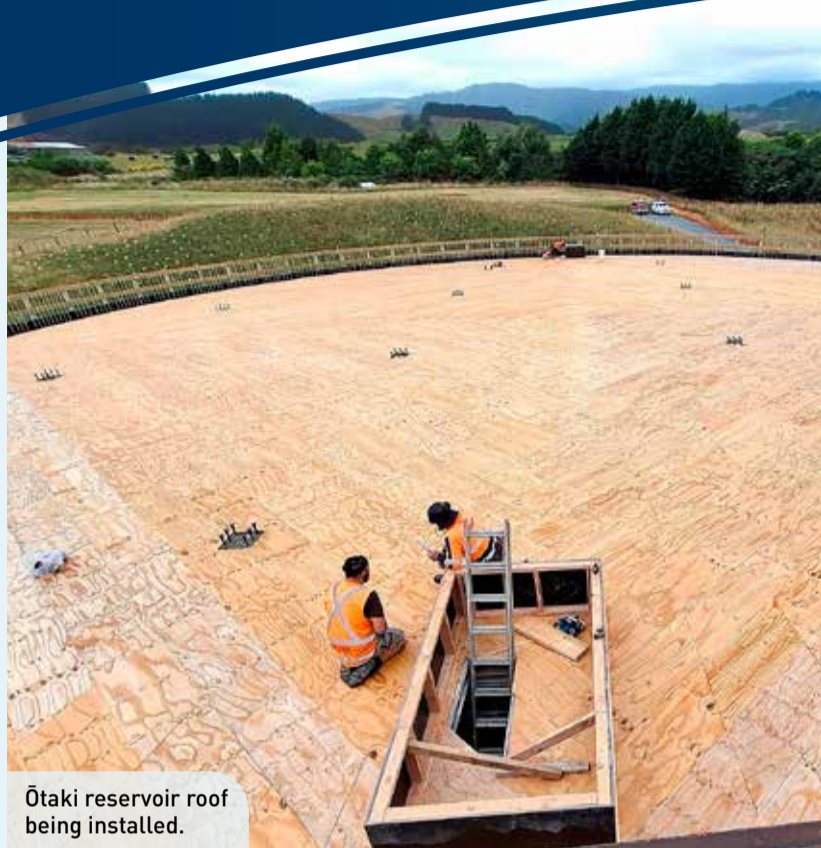
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Ōtaki Update

February 2025



Ōtaki reservoir roof being installed.

Water network upgrades progressing well

With the help of Government funding from the Infrastructure Acceleration Fund, we're partway through a once-in-a-generation upgrade of our three waters networks in Ōtaki.

This includes a new reservoir, which holds 5.5 million litres and is 35 metres wide, to increase the amount of stored drinking water for emergencies and improve firefighting capability. Built to withstand a one-in-2500-year earthquake, the reservoir will also provide for the town's expected growth. It's due to begin operating in May this year.

Our wastewater upgrade involves laying 2.7 kilometres of new wastewater pipe along Aotaki Street and Mill Road to old State Highway 1. We're replacing old pipes with larger pipes to support growth and reduce overflows during flooding. We're expecting the work to be completed late 2025.

Thanks for your patience as we get this important mahi done.

► [Find out more about infrastructure upgrades at: kapiticoast.govt.nz/council/projects](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/council/projects)



New lease of life for tired tyres

Disposing of end-of-life tyres responsibly just got easier – both transfer stations in Otaihanga and Ōtaki now take up to five tyres for free as long as they're clean, debris-free, and without rims.

Tyres accepted for recycling include pneumatic (air-filled) and solid tyres for use on motorised vehicles such as cars, trucks, buses, motorcycles, aircraft, trailers, and off-road vehicles.

Tyrewise will then collect the tyres and repurpose them into things like playground matting and concrete foundations.

This is fantastic news for our community and our environment, as one aim of the scheme is to help prevent the illegal dumping and stockpiling of tyres.



Over the Fence Cuppas

Would you like to get to know your neighbours better, or just want an opportunity to enjoy the connections you already have? Then register to host an Over the Fence Cuppa event and celebrate with your community in March.

The theme this year is Let's Celebrate! For your event, you might like to swap home-grown produce, host a guest speaker, or simply get together over kai or a classic cuppa.

Getting to know your neighbours better helps nurture a sense of belonging and preparedness if disaster strikes, as the people you live nearest to will be your most immediate and ongoing source of support in an emergency.

Your event can be held anytime between Friday 14 March and Sunday 30 March. We have event planning resources and goody bags to get you going; just make sure you register by 28 February.

► [For more information and to register, visit: kapiticoast.govt.nz/neighbours](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/neighbours)



Work starts to restore Ōtaki Forks access

A five-month programme to reopen the road at Blue Bluff on Ōtaki Gorge Road is underway.

An overslip where material has fallen onto the road from the hill above and an underslip where the road is undermined by a collapse beneath it need to be fixed.

There's approximately 15,000 cubic metres of debris to be removed. Please take extra care driving in the area due to the volume of active construction vehicles.

After the debris has gone, we'll rebuild the road along its original alignment near the overslip. At the site of the underslip, we'll cut back into the bank and realign the road further from the river.

There'll be no pedestrian access through the worksite, so walkers will need to use DOC's alternate track to access Tararua Forest Park, adding an extra two hours to the walk. All going well, the road will reopen around May 2025.

► [Keep up to date about the work at: kapiticoast.govt.nz/OtakiGorgeRoad](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/OtakiGorgeRoad)



Check in on your life

In all the work you're doing for tomorrow and the lives of our mokopuna, don't forget to check in on the value of that other big kaupapa you lead, you know, your life.

Recently, I was talking with a group of rangatahi about Minimum Viable Pursuits – a fancy name for a simple kōrero about making the mahi the treat instead of doing the mahi to get the treats. Life is too short and precious to not enjoy the big bits.

I spent a lot of my 20s working out how to not be sad and I think it's served me well. So I always enjoy these wānanga with rangatahi.

During our talk, a young woman asked: "How do you know when to quit something you're trying to love?"

She was talking about long distance running and I haven't been chased in a while... but I do know that like running, you have to know you're going in the right direction. If you don't know the end-point of the work, you'll never know if the steps you're taking are missing the point or moving towards it.

For anything you spend big time on: know why you're doing it, figure out what it looks like or how it feels if you're feeding that why, and check in often against it. Collect your own feedback on if that mahi is achieving its purpose. Know if it's valuable to you.

If you have customers, spending your time on the stuff they find valuable can mean life or death for your business. If the people I'm there to serve want to buy coffees, and I spend all my time growing and picking tea leaves, it won't be long before I find out that's not valuable to them. They'll always tell me – the only question is will I listen and understand that I'm not spending those hours in a way that adds value? Will I change what I'm doing? If not, I'll go out of business.

Again, this is kind of obvious. You can work all that stuff out with customer surveys, kōrero and feedback. You know that if a business isn't having the impact its customers or users want, you need to do something different.

Kodak could have released the first digital camera but

they didn't. Video Ezy could have set up a streaming service if they'd been listening.

But what about when you're the customer and the impact is a life you love? (Is there a more valuable measurement for a person?)

What tools do you use to understand that?

Your life is a collection of days and those days are a collection of hours. So how you spend your hours is how your life is spent. You can't trade in those credits at the end if they didn't add up to a life you loved and valued.

But we all have a limited number of hours in the day and – regardless of how many coffees from Ngā Purapura you scull – to say yes to the things that help you love your life, you have to say no and stop the

things that don't.

Think about your own time investments. That hui you went to this morning or that commitment you've maintained for years – are you doing it because it truly adds value to your life, or because "that's just what we do"? When was the last time you measured the return on that time?

It's not very complicated (and kind of obvious) spending time on the things you love is how to spend a life that you love. And remember your life will be spent whether or not you choose how.

Take one regular activity in your life that you and look at it properly. What's its purpose? Is it serving that purpose? Would you start doing it again if you were starting fresh today?

Just like the resources in your organisation, your time here is finite. Spend it wisely.

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

GOOD THINKING



PERA BARRETT

ŌTAKI COMMUNITY: SIMON BLACK

Progress on better policing

As an elected representative, I firmly believe in following through on commitments made to the community.

One of my key campaign promises in 2022 was to advocate for better policing in Ōtaki, and to work alongside law enforcement to help reduce crime. The Ōtaki Community Board has made great progress on this commitment. However, getting around-the-clock police coverage continues to be a challenge.

Over the past 12 months, Ōtaki has experienced a troubling rise in ram raids and illegal street racing. In response, the community board has taken action, presenting options to KCDC aimed at curbing crime, including traffic-calming measures, a no-cruising-by-law, and an expansion of its CCTV coverage.

A crucial partner in this effort is the Horowhenua Community Camera Trust (HCCT), a volunteer-led organisation that has played a significant role in reducing crime across the Horowhenua district.

Operating from Levin Police Station, HCCT manages more than 80 cameras in Horowhenua, working closely with police while adhering to strict privacy standards. The HCCT is now collaborating with local police and myself to develop a plan for increased CCTV coverage in Ōtaki.

With partnerships involving KCDC, utility companies, iwi and local businesses, we aim to establish access to existing CCTV cameras around Ōtaki. Given Ōtaki's unique geographic layout, a small number of well-positioned cameras could make a major difference in monitoring and deterring suspicious activity.

Being a primary stakeholder on behalf of the Ōtaki Community Board for this initiative, I want to hear from you (Simon.Black@kapiticoast.govt.nz) if you have ideas or concerns about CCTV coverage.

Ensuring our community remains safe is a shared effort and your input is invaluable. Let's work together to continue to make Ōtaki a safer place for all.

■ Simon is deputy chair of the Ōtaki Community Board



BOOK REVIEW: PATRICIA DONOVAN

Dead bodies were only the start . . .

Patricia Donovan is arguably one of New Zealand's most diverse novelists.

Having tackled historical, thriller and dystopian novels, her fourth novel, is an edgy crime thriller with a woman's journey at its core. Dead bodies were only the start . . .

The Serenity Centre in Cambodia was full of secrets, of skeletons, bones in the closet, things unrevealed and undisclosed.

You sensed it. There was an atmosphere.

The discovery of a dead body only added to the tension, and triggered in Rita painful memories of events in New Zealand five years earlier.

A woman had been found dead at Rita's workplace, and compromising material related to the death dumped in Rita's bag. Who put it there? Why?

Finding herself under suspicion, Rita is compelled to track down the answers.

In this engrossing novel, *Rita Vegas*, Patricia Donovan weaves together two crime stories to explore memory and the stickiness of emotional triggers, and how necessity drives us to find strengths we don't know we have.

"Donovan delivers an edgy, intriguing crime story."

– Jan Jordan, author and criminologist.

"Rita Vegas swaps

Wellington's mean streets for a Cambodian rehab, but the bodies keep piling up. In this taut, elegant thriller, Donovan keeps us endlessly entertained."

– Redmer Yska, author and historian

■ Patricia Donovan is the author of three previous novels, including *The Remarkable Miss Digby* which in 2022 was shortlisted for a NZ Booklovers Award. She lives in Te Horo. See patriciadonovan.nz



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HUATAU/Comment

MAYOR'S VIEW: JANET HOLBOROW

Plenty going on through the rest of a fantastic summer

It is hard to believe that it's already February but after a fantastic summer there is so much more on the way.

The new year has already seen the wonderful Festival of Pots and Garden Art. Following on from that we can look forward to are the Kite Festival and Maoriland Film Festival next month. But that's not all – from Movies in the Park to the Kāpiti Classic there is so much on and if you're wondering what else is happening check out council's Summer of Fun for all this and more.

The Waitangi Day commemoration for the district was hosted in Ōtaki this year with an event at Taumanuka – the former Children's Health Camp. The theme for 2025 was Ngā Taonga Tukuiho (ancestral treasures). This acknowledges Ngāti Raukawa and hapū, their



history and historical and current involvement with Te Tiriti.

Given everything happening, the relationships and collaboration between council, iwi and hapū are essential for a thriving and resilient community. I look forward to seeing that continue as we work together in these uncertain times.

KCDC is proud to support Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki under the rangatiratanga of Ngāti Raukawa in marking such an important day.

There are also some important milestones for community projects in and around Ōtaki.

Te Horo Hall was due to mark renovations with a celebration and hāngi on February 8. It has been a lot of work so congratulations to those involved. Another dedicated group – Friends of Ōtaki Rotunda – received resource consent recently to carry out works on the heritage structure. It's been a huge effort to get to this point and it will be great to see this happen.

Finally, regarding Moy Place. The recent council decision reaffirms the decision made by council on November 28, 2024, to decline the transfer of a parcel of land at the end of Moy Place from Local Purpose Reserve (Road) (under the Reserves Act) to legal road.

The paper was brought back to the table following the receipt of added information in

December last year. This included information about opportunities for hybrid dual access and a judicial review being lodged with the High Court.

It was important for councillors to reflect on the new information as a judicial review is an expensive process and we are obliged to consider the impact for all ratepayers.

I acknowledge that bringing this back for another decision has been upsetting for the residents of Moy Place and Sue Avenue, but I stand by the need to ensure we do our diligence and make sure we always act in the best interests of the wider community. I hope the developers and residents can find some common ground and a solution as the legal process continues.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, and all that is happening in Ōtaki.

■ Janet is Kāpiti mayor.

THE ELECTORATE: TIM COSTLEY, MP

Sick of tall poppy syndrome

I'm sick of New Zealand's tall poppy syndrome: that tendency to cut down anyone who grows a little too high.

Sometimes it feels like we raise people up just to have a better aim with the rocks we like to throw at them. Instead, we need more aspiration, more hope, and be better at encouraging and celebrating others.

There are of course great examples where we do it well, but there are too many people with personal stories of how they've felt targeted for sticking their head above the parapet. I think it's time for change.

Recently I met with the Rotary Young Leadership



Award course of about 30 young people on a five-day camp at Forest Lakes. We need young people like these to feel confident

to piki ake, to step up and try new things. We need to celebrate our successes, and we need more of them.

Someone doing well does not limit the ability of others to succeed, often it can precipitate more success. Recently I met with Sir Peter Beck who spoke about the formation of Rocket Lab, now the world's third largest launcher of rockets into space; pretty remarkable for a kid from Invercargill. But actually his success has enabled many other Kiwi companies to leverage this and to grow their own success stories.

We need more of these stories. If we are to have a thriving community in our region, and to be one of the best little economies in the world, we need more stories of success. My role is to champion our region, to connect, to facilitate, to advocate. Where regulation or legislation needs changing, I'll continue to play my part in making it easier for our local businesses and community organisations to do well.

When you hear our PM and our government talk about the need to stop saying "no" and start saying "yes", to cut red tape and poor regulation, and to set the conditions for our country and community to thrive, this is what we're talking about. We need to give our kids the best education so they have more opportunity and we have a skilled workforce. We need to make it easier for others to invest here so they can enable Kiwis to realise their dreams like Sir Peter did. We need less red tape, fewer people saying no, fewer people hiding behind compliance as the reason things can't be done.

We have huge potential but we need to be bold and to make the road to success a little easier. And when we see others achieve it, we need to encourage and collaborate, not look for the easy way to cut others down.

■ Tim is MP for the Ōtaki electorate

CAM'S CORNER: CAM BUTLER

Wastewater pipe work full steam ahead

Tēnā koutou whanau o Ōtaki.

Please note that our first Ōtaki Community Board meeting is March 11 as we are last in the cycle of community board meetings. This also means you have more time to put any funding requests into the board.

Road works

Aotaki Street and Mill Road wastewater pipe works are back and going full steam ahead! Please note that it will be disruptive when the Aotaki Street works get to the Waerenga Road intersection and you won't be able to turn right for a week or so. Might need to duck along Domain Road.

Minor work is ongoing on the Old SH1 bridge with the barriers and lighting being finished off. I can't wait for it to be finished. In particular I want to see how it looks at night with the extra lighting. A number of people have commented that the southern entrance to Ōtaki is a bit drab and could do



with some lighting up. Let's see what it looks like.

Speaking of lights (or lack of)

You might have noticed that the southern gateway sculpture on the expressway is always lit up with white light nowadays compared to the coloured lights of the northern sculpture. This is likely to be permanent due to some stupid vandalism that destroyed the \$15,000 (yes!) lights and control system – not once, but twice! KCDC did not have a budget for the first repair and could not justify it a second time. Again the enjoyment of the

majority is wrecked by the actions of the minority.

Old SH1 revocation works

The Ōtaki Community Board met with the Ōtaki Business Association and KCDC to work through the revocation works through the Old SH1 retail area and a few sticky issues there. We believe we found a good solution and are awaiting the revised plans. Revocation works are already undergoing and you will have seen what is happening down at Te Horo where a better footpath and intersection improvements are being constructed. Just need someone to buy Hyde Park and give it a spruce-up and get the people back there.

33 Main Highway development

Lots of news, I am sure you have heard! Keep being Sunny, Ōtaki.

• Like our Ōtaki Community Board Facebook page.

■ Cam is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board.

TE HORO OUTLOOK: MICHAEL MOORE

Waitangi Day, a time for reflection and unity

It was a beautiful summer's day for Waitangi Day this year: a time for celebration, community, reflection and discussion.

Ōtaki put on a wonderful day for Waitangi ki Taumanuka and it was good to see the fun atmosphere at the old Ōtaki Health Camp with hundreds of locals, tamariki and rangatahi, and the whānau.

There was a service at Ōtaki's historic Rangiatea Church, followed by a panel kōrero at All Saints Church. This aired the challenges the Treaty of Waitangi faces today.

Under the current political climate, Māori have been singled out unjustly, even in petty ways by government edicts to not use te reo first. This might seem a small thing, but the message it sends is extremely divisive.

Waitangi Day is a time to acknowledge the Treaty signed in 1840 between Māori rangatira and the British Crown.

It's our foundational document and remains central to our history, shaping the relationship between tangata whenua and all who call New Zealand home.

Even though for many Waitangi Day is a public holiday, it is an opportunity to engage in deeper conversations about our past,



present, and future.

The Treaty was intended as a partnership, yet history has shown that this partnership has often been unbalanced.

By understanding what Waitangi Day represents, we can move towards a future built on respect, fairness, and inclusivity.

Understanding the significance of the Treaty is vital. It is not just a historical relic, but also a living document that continues to guide discussions on equity, justice, and reconciliation.

Over the years, the Waitangi Tribunal and Treaty settlements have sought to address past injustices, acknowledging the grievances of iwi and hapū whose lands, language, and rights have been compromised. Recognising these truths is not about division; it is about healing and creating a more just society for all.

Respectful discussions and open minds can help bridge gaps in knowledge and perspective.

As a country, we have made progress, but there is always more to do. True partnership requires more than words, but action.

Waitangi Day reminds us that we are all part of this shared history and that we each have a role to play in shaping a fairer future for all.

We can all contribute to the spirit of kotahitanga: unity. Reflect on our history, celebrate our diversity, and commit to building a future where all voices are valued.

In the Kāpiti Coast district, Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti is one of the longest lasting partnerships between mana whenua (people with "authority over the land") and local government, something of which we can be very proud.

Next Waikanae Community Board meeting Tuesday March 4, 7pm, at the Reikorangi Hall, 5 Akatarawa Road, Waikanae

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

It's time to seriously revalue arts and culture

There's little need to scratch much beyond a thin skin to realise that many politicians and decision makers hold bugger all regard for arts and culture.

All that singing and prancing around is apparently frivolous and can't be taken too seriously, especially when money is short, and the country's basic needs are long.



FRASER CARSON

Take for example the prime minister's comments last year that he is prepared to see schools deferring their arts and music curriculum to raise achievement in maths and reading.

Who would ever argue against raising achievements in maths and reading, when most parents and all good educators know that children learn best through play and enjoyment. Given that the essence of arts and culture is about play and enjoyment, it's an instinctive thing for children, most noticeably among the very young as they learn so much from picture books, finger painting, play acting or building sandcastles.

It puts me in mind of a decrepit idea that people shouldn't lean more than one language, apparently because it dilutes a person's skills. Bunkum. In fact, all the evidence shows that a person's grasp of "language" is enhanced through being multi-lingual.



Image by Pixabay

This little piece of evidence proved a bit of a shock to those who promoted the old one-language idea, which, in part, was used at one time to justify banning te reo and Māori heritage in our schools, all while promoting English as the single language.

A similar logic applies to the idea that a focus on maths and reading needs a de-focus on arts and culture. Why? Apparently because too much arts and culture dilutes skills in maths and reading.

Of course it should not go unnoticed that a focus on maths and reading can once again conveniently work to sideline toi Māori and many of the expressions of an ethnically diverse society.

Even allowing for the myopia of this view, don't most decision makers want economic growth and wealth creation, which is clearly screaming out for people who are creative, innovative and well adjusted? And yes, who can also read and do maths.

While I'm suggesting an ulterior motive at work in marginalising arts and culture in the name of some kind of monoculturalism, I think the bigger issue is simply plain ignorance.

Rather than thinking of arts and culture as frivolous and dispensable, it needs to be seen by politicians and decision makers as absolutely essential to our communities and economy. Well-being and social cohesion go hand-in-hand and should be radically revalued – as fundamental drivers for our communities. That means we treat it more like everything else we invest in for social impact.

That's much easier said than done, especially since part of the problem stems from arts organisations reducing themselves to a constant struggle for funding. Whether by design or not, this mean they're fighting for a share of meagre resources in separate and competing silos. Funding is doled out by people who judge the merits of one group against many others, most often at arm's length from the recipient.

As a consequence, applicants tend to present themselves in isolation and according to the merits (passions) of their particular art form – hip hop, musical theatre, etc.

What kind of arts and culture landscape has this created?

Firstly, funding is seldom secure or sustained, so artists and arts organisations see life as a constant obsession. They often apply to fund shorter term projects, that answer the criteria of the funder, rather than looking for investment in helping them grow and be sustainable for the longer term.

Secondly, funding applicants compete so their chances of working together, or more holistically, is diminished.

Thirdly, many decision makers and influencers see funding applicants as lacking in professionalism and perpetually impoverished (as well as frivolous) and not seriously considered as vital drivers of well-being or the economy.

The importance of arts and culture is best seen in how it underpins the well-being of people. A happy society is a cohesive society that's better connected, more productive and less of a drain on public services.

Every effort should be made to ensure it's much better funded, starting with an understanding of its fundamental value. At the same time, artists and art organisations must recognise their own intrinsic value to society. Then that will help them find ways to create greater impact, for example, by working much more collaboratively and on foundations of sustainability and self-sufficiency.

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

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ŌTAKI KITE FESTIVAL

Kite magic returns to Ōtaki skies

The Ōtaki Kite Festival is gearing up to deliver a free family extravaganza like no other with its return to Ōtaki Beach on the weekend of March 8-9.

The annual event has been creating a spectacle in the skies since 2013 and is renowned for delivering two days of community fun that includes the largest selections of kites in one place in New Zealand. Performers, music, and food trucks come together to create a fun festival atmosphere.

The festival is held on and around Ōtaki Beach, this year on Saturday and Sunday March 8-9, from 10am-4pm.

The New Zealand Kite Flyers Association and Peter Lynn Kites will be onsite flying their huge inflatable kites. International guest flyers include Robert Brasington, Aneta Zurawski, Peter Carmen, plus Jo and Ricky Baker, all from Australia (see opposite page).

“It’s exciting to be able to bring such quality kite flyers to New Zealand to showcase their awe-inspiring kites,” says festival director Kirsty Doyle. “The skies will be full of spectacular kites in the form of everything from huge inflatable whales and dragons, to artistic kites.”

The event this year will feature more than 50 kite flyers delivering a diverse range of kites.

A crowd favourite is sure to be the colourful creations of Kiwi kite flyer Malcom Hubbert from Northland. His bright sea creatures always spark imaginations young and old. Other festival highlights include local musicians and the popular Taiko Drummers.

A new addition to the festival this year is a series of kite workshops for schools, supported by Creative New Zealand. Children will be able to get hands on and create their own kite via special workshops hosted by international duo Jo and Ricky Baker from Australia, who run Kites 4 Kids.

Ōtaki Promotions Group chair Ian Carson says the free event is a great way to draw visitors to the district, and bring the local community down to Ōtaki Beach.

“We are proud to continue to deliver one of the biggest events



on the Kāpiti Coast,” he says. “The Ōtaki Kite Festival has something for everyone. In addition to our fantastic kite displays we have a variety of entertainment, market stalls, food, and the Kelly and Co Big Dig, which is a favourite with the kids. There are some great prizes.”

Ian is full of praise for the energetic team of volunteers who have been working hard behind the scenes.

“There’s no reward for them other than knowing they’re contributing to a fantastic community event.”

To find out more about the event programme and visiting the Ōtaki Kite Festival, see Ōtaki Kite Festival on Facebook.

About the festival

The Ōtaki Kite Festival is the largest of its kind in New Zealand.

It’s free to attend, making it an ideal family-friendly event. It’s renowned not only for the spectacular kites on display, but also the magnificent natural backdrop of the ocean and Kāpiti Island.

About the Ōtaki Promotions Group

The Ōtaki Promotions Group was established in 2012. Its purpose is to “promote Ōtaki and its environs as vibrant and attractive to locals, visitors and businesses”.

While best known for organising the annual kite festival, the ŌPG organises the Ōtaki Community Expo, which showcases many different groups and clubs in the Ōtaki Memorial Hall each year in September, and the Christmas Wonderland in the Ōtaki College Hall.

KITE FESTIVAL ŌTAKI

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Aussie faves are back

Australian kite flyers Robert Brassington, Aneta Zurawski, Peter Carmen, and Jo and Ricky Baker, are returning to the Ōtaki Kite Festival, with many crowd-favourite kites.

Tasmanian Robert Brassington, at left, says kite-making presented itself as a career change for him, and St Helens in Tasmania was chosen as an appropriate centre for small-scale production of dual-lined sports kites. It was an ideal retreat for surfing and had a climate conducive to growing a range of plant species.



As time moved on, the direction of the business changed from wholesale sports kite production to decorative single-line kites and sculptural ground displays. That has been the focus for Robert and partner Tracey for the past 20 years.

Travelling around the world as a guest exhibitor is now a regular occurrence. Robert has been honoured to represent Australia in Europe, the US and Asia at kite festivals and cultural events. He is regularly designing kites, one is pictured at right, and ground displays for US and European companies.

Peter Carmen and Aneta Zurawski, pictured right, from the Goulburn Valley in regional Victoria have been flying kites together for more than 15 years. Peter has

been making kites since he was a little kid and loves making cellular kites.

Kite flying is a relaxing hobby for them both. They spend many evenings down at the local footy field watching thermal kites hang in the sky after work.

As members of Victorian Flash Mob Kite Flyers and Adelaide Kite Flyers they have attended events in NSW and Victoria. This will be their third time at Ōtaki. Their favourite place to fly a kite is anywhere on a beach.

Malcolm Hubbert is a professional kite flyer from Northland and flies kites all over the country. He owns a huge variety of stunning kites, ranging in size from two to 30 metres across.



Kites 4 Kids – one of the largest collections of kites in Australia

Jo and Ricky Baker are running kite workshops at Ōtaki College in the run-up to the kite festival.

Thirty years ago the Australian couple bought a small stunt kite while they were on holiday in Queensland. From that small kite, and Ricky's determination to master the art of flying, they now have a trailer full of kites of all shapes and sizes.

Jo, pictured right, started their business, Kites 4 Kids, in November 1995 and has been running kite-making workshops in Melbourne schools, school holiday programmes, after school activities, community events, and even internationally in places such as Guam (US), Kuwait, Thailand, Bali, China and India.

"Discovering a kite shop not far from where we lived and then learning about a kite club we discovered that not only where there were kite festivals, but you could actually compete with these stunt kites.

"By this time we were both hooked and we discovered team flying and later started flying single string.

"We now have a large range of single string, dual line, quad line and even a buggy to play with. Our



family of kiterers has also grown, as sons Trent aged 24, and Brett aged 23, are both capable kite flyers," Jo says.

Kites 4 Kids has one of the largest kite collections in Australia. They also have 100s of banners and inflatable ground bouncers of all shapes and sizes, which must be staked into the ground.

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MAHI MĀRA/Gardening

Time to attend to autumn and winter crops

Even though the summer harvest has only just gotten into full swing, it's time to turn our attention to autumn and winter crops. The warm nights makes for fast growth – use it to get slow-growing winter crops like carrots, parsnips, leeks and cauliflowers under way, ensuring there's plenty of best food for your family through till spring.

Direct sow

- Greencrops: sow phacelia, lupin, buckwheat, red clover or mustard in any gaps to nourish soil and pave the way for autumn plantings.
- Kohlrabi, parsnip, radish or carrots. Carrots that are sown in the heat and harvested in the cold are the best!
- Companion flowers like calendula, chamomile, larkspur, wallflower, corn-flower, snapdragons or love in a mist.
- Coriander, salad greens and rocket beneath taller crops or flowers in the semi shade to prevent bolting.

EDIBLE GARDEN



KATH IRVINE

Tray sow

- Start sowing mixed trays of autumn brassicas. A few cauli, cabbage and broccoli every few weeks makes a useful mixed, staggered harvest.
- Silverbeet, perpetual beet, chard, parsley, spring onion, red onion or celery.
- Flowers for winter and spring – wallflower, dahlia, chamomile, dianthus, larkspur, echinops, hollyhock or anise hyssop.

Direct or tray sow

- Little and often sowings of basil are super useful. Basil is at its best when fresh and young – such a beautiful summer herb. Let the old plants flower for the bees and save the seed.
- Dwarf beans into warm soil. Another row sown now will take you through autumn.
- Beetroot and saladings can be either tray sown in shallow plug trays or direct sown along the picking edge.
- Bok choy or kale.

Transplant

Check your soil before planting. Choose the best soil for heavy



feeders like brassicas. Where soil is poor, sow a greencrop, make a compost pile on top of it, or add compost before planting.

- Broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, brussel sprouts, kale, silverbeet, perpetual beet, chard, parsley and celery. Leeks for spring, spring onions, saladings in the semi-shade, zucchini and cucumber in the greenhouse.

Regular and odd jobs

Harvest shellout beans. Jars of homegrown beans in the pantry are so satisfying! Harvest onions and shallots when tops start flopping over.

Let herbs, flowers and leafy greens spire off to seed and fling their seed about for another generation of seedlings. As your garden establishes and as you let more crops go full cycle, you'll start to provide many of your own seedlings without lifting a finger. Parsley, chard, perpetual spinach, endive, chicory, coriander, rocket, kale, flowers and saladings are all a perfect fit for this self-perpetuating cycle.

Save seeds from your best peas, beans, salads, flowers and tomatoes. Self fertile plants like these are easy to save for the home gardener. Choose seed from plants that crop well, have great flavour and are no fuss. Your own saved seed grows in strength every year, becoming more disease resistant and better adapted to your garden year on year. It's worth its weight in gold. Having your own little seed bank is solid and it avoids disappointment when the seed company stops stocking your favourite.

■ *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.*



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HAUORA-PŪTAIO /Health-science

Fire retardant – harmless or hazardous?

Memorable images of the recent Los Angeles fires are of firefighting planes dropping bright pink fire retardant, including blanketing houses, cars and residential streets.

The fire retardant, “Phos-Chek”, was originally developed by Monsanto in the early 1960s. The active ingredient is the commonly used fertiliser ammonium phosphate, with the brand name signifying the phosphate content and its ability to stop (check) fires.

Now manufactured by the US company Perimeter Solutions, it is the most-used aerial fire retardant, including in New Zealand. Between 2009 and 2021 more than 1.6 billion litres were dropped on US land alone, with its use doubling in the past 10 years.

It is coloured as a visual aid for pilots so they can see where it has been dropped.

“We tested every colour in the rainbow, and the pink was by far the most visible,” said Melissa Kim, vice president of research and development at Perimeter Solutions. “And it’s pretty.”

The pink colour is commonly reported to be due to added iron oxide (rust). For instance, the *New York Post* reports that ammonium phosphate is “mixed with iron oxide to create its bright pink color”; similarly, *USA Today* says that “the red color of the fire retardant is caused by the chemical component iron oxide, commonly known as rust”. The NZ

Herald likewise reports that the fire retardant has additives such as iron oxide – rust – to give it colour,

Well, that’s comforting – what could be more natural than a bit of rust?

Now it’s true that some fire retardants use iron oxide for colouring, and it’s also true that iron oxides come in a range of colours, but I’m pretty sure that eye-popping fluorescent Barbie pink isn’t one of them.

Also, the current high visibility Phos-Chek fire-retardants (for example, Phos-Chek MVP Fx) use “fugitive” colours that fade with exposure to sunshine to an earth tone, whereas iron oxides are colour-fast and do not fade.

Can ChatGPT help? I ask it what the pink colouring in Phos-Chek is, and it replies that it could be a rust-based pigment like ochre or burnt sienna (mineral iron oxides). I point out those pigments are not pink. ChatGPT apologises with a, “You’re right, and I appreciate the correction”, and then proceeds to list some possible synthetic pigments.

So why didn’t ChatGPT give me the more accurate answer to begin with? Perhaps it relies too much on inadequately researched newspaper articles? Perhaps it’s inclined to favour corporate spin over facts?

If ChatGPT had dug a little deeper it would



authorities ensure the product meets all environmental and health standards. However, confidence in the thoroughness of this process was shaken by a 2024 study by Daniel McCurry of the University of Southern California, who found that Phos-Chek LC95W, a non-coloured version of Phos-Chek, contained “potentially alarming” concentrations of several toxic

metals, including cadmium and chromium. In his research article McCurry stated that: “Phos-Chek LC95W could legally be characterised as hazardous waste under both federal and California regulation.”

And phosphate-based fire retardant can be toxic to fish and other aquatic species if it gets into waterways. This has resulted in recent lawsuits by the Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (FSEEE), an organisation made up of former and current employees of the US Forest Service, who accuse the Forest Service of violating the country’s clean water laws through excessive and inappropriate use of fire retardant.

It would be nice to think that Phos-Chek is just harmless fertiliser with a bit of rust colouring, but clearly, we need to think again.

■ 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.

HEALTH SCIENCE



DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

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The healing powers of kawakawa

In the beginning, Papatūānuku and Ranginui were entwined in a loving embrace, their affection for one another enduring through eternity.

However, after ages of closeness, their children ultimately separated them. This separation left Papatūānuku heartbroken, plunging her into deep sadness. To help alleviate her grief, she was given a rongoā to adorn her body and aid in healing her pain. This rongoā is known as kawakawa.

The heart-shaped leaves of kawakawa serve as a symbol of its healing powers. Traditionally used by Māori to relieve pain and soothe toothaches, the leaves contain myristicin, which exhibits mild antiseptic qualities and pain-numbing effects.

It is beneficial for kidney and bladder issues, and offers a delightful taste while promoting overall health. With its gentle cleansing properties, kawakawa supports various ailments, including digestive and circulatory conditions. It's important to note that kawakawa thins the blood, so individuals on heart medication should exercise caution.

When I feel sluggish or stressed, I often enjoy a glass of kawakawa tea daily for up to a week. This helps me detoxify and reconnect with Papatūānuku, allowing me to feel grounded. In our hectic lives, it's easy to get lost in our thoughts and feel unanchored. Kawakawa wairākau helps restore our awareness to the centre, enabling us to see things more clearly from the heart.

Kawakawa is plentiful in our environment and can be easily integrated into your daily routine as a wairākau or tea.



RONGOĀ

JOANNE HAKARAIA

If you can identify the kawakawa plant, consider making this simple wairākau (tea). It's a wonderful addition to have in your fridge. You can enjoy the wairākau as a drink or add it to your bath water, as it's great for the skin due to its antibacterial properties.

To make a wairākau:

1. Place about five leaves (fresh or dried) in a pot.
2. Pour a litre of water into the pot and bring to a boil.
3. Boil for 10 minutes.
4. Strain.
5. Drink



Once you've boiled the leaves, you can switch off the stove and allow them to remain in the pot of water. The longer you let the leaves steep, the richer and stronger the rongoā will become.

When I use the rongoā for a deep cleanse, I let it steep for a few days to allow the mauri to intensify. It's powerful. I can immediately feel the ancient minerals revitalising my body.

■ Joanne is kaitohu (director) of The Rongoā Mauri Studio and is ACC registered for Rongoā Māori Services. See rongoamauri.com



Occupation rights agreements in retirement villages

Retirement villages are an increasingly popular lifestyle option for retirees.

There are many positive aspects to living in a retirement village, such as the community, in-home support, independence, services, and activities.

From a legal perspective, however, purchasing a unit/apartment/home in a retirement village is quite different from a "normal" house purchase.

Most retirement villages do not sell their residents the actual land or house, but rather a contractual "right to occupy" – commonly referred to as an Occupation Right Agreement (ORA). Retirement villages, and these agreements, are governed by the Retirement Villages Act 2003.

One of the primary purposes of this legislation is to "protect the interests of residents and intending residents of retirement villages".

An ORA gives someone the right to live in the unit (or other dwelling) for the rest of their life. That right is subject to ongoing compliance with the rules of the retirement village, and the person's health not declining to the extent that they need a higher level of care than the retirement village can provide.

There can be a lot of rules in a retirement village. These can include things like: alterations not being allowed, how long friends or family can stay with you, if you are allowed pets, maintenance and repairs of the unit, and much more. If there are disagreements or disputes over these rules, the ORA also sets out a dispute resolution process.

There can also be a lot of costs associated with entering an ORA. The initial payment,

MATTERS OF LAW



BROOKE MCGOWAN

essentially the "purchase price" for the right to occupy, varies greatly between villages. There is then a weekly or monthly payment towards the running of the retirement village. Some ORAs have this payment fixed for the life of the agreement, while other ORAs provide that the payment can increase.

There can then be optional extra charges, depending on services offered by the village that residents may opt to receive, like meals or cleaning.

When the ORA is ended, either because the resident needs to move or because they have died, the resident or their estate does not get back the full amount they initially paid as the purchase price. The village deducts a "deferred management fee" which accrues depending on how long the resident lived there, and is usually capped at about 25 percent. The retirement village can also generally charge the previous resident for any repairs needed beyond "fair wear and tear". If the retirement village sells the unit for more than the previous resident paid, they also keep that capital gain.

If you're looking to enter an ORA, the retirement village will need to see that you have valid Enduring Powers of Attorney in place, and they will ask that you get a medical certificate.

Before signing an ORA, you need to meet with a solicitor to advise you on the agreement. The agreements can be long and complicated, and because it's such a big financial decision, it's important you understand what you're signing up for.

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





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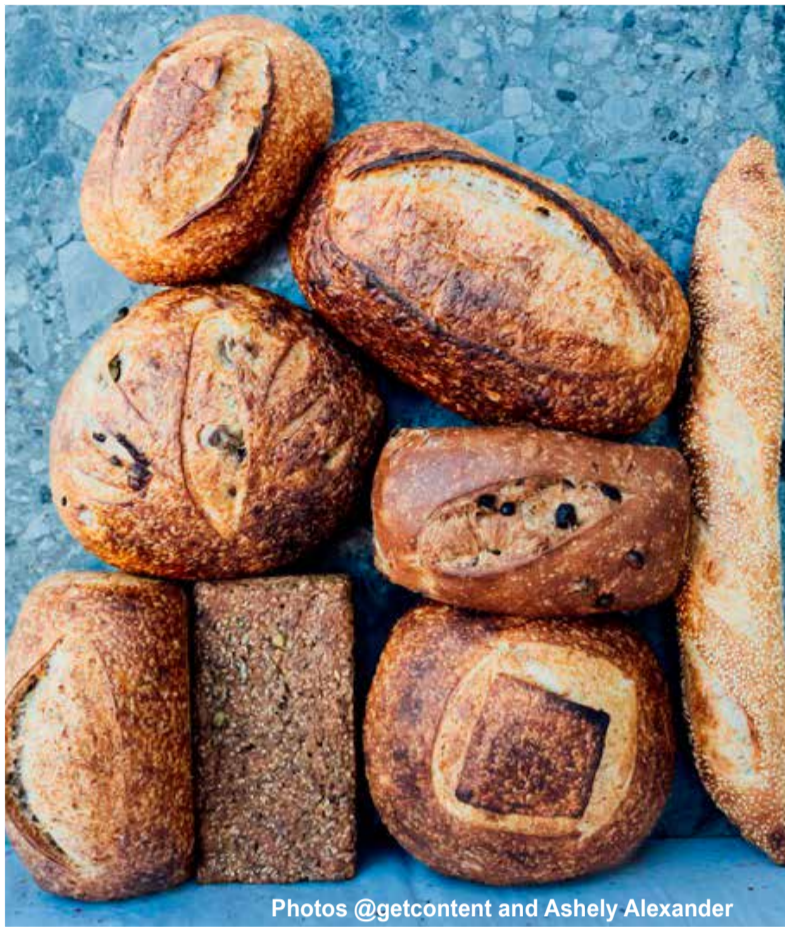
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or go to otakitoday.com

and click the **Contact** link

BUSINESS PROFILE

This series of profiles on local businesses is supported by Land Matters and Pritchard Civil



Photos @getcontent and Ashely Alexander



Alice finds way to make great dough

Alice Blackburne is the kind of person who just makes things happen.

She's an experienced chef who spent six years working overseas – mostly in Melbourne, but also in London. While she was in London, working at the fine dining restaurant Spring, she had the chance to learn the art of making sourdough.

Fast forward a bit, and Covid-19 comes along, flipping the world upside down. Like so many others, Alice found herself back in New Zealand earlier than planned. She had always intended to move back to the Kāpiti Coast eventually, but the pandemic gave her the push to do it sooner.

And from that, Tironui Sourdough was born. Tironui Sourdough is Alice's very own artisan

bread-making business, named after her family farm in Te Horo. She runs her baking operation from the kitchen at the Ōtaki-Maori Racing Club, turning out handcrafted breads.

It all started in June 2020, when she was fresh out of isolation and looking for her next move. Having lost her job at the London restaurant due to Covid, she turned back to something she'd already fallen in love with – sourdough baking. Alice got her mum to begin a sourdough starter while Alice was in self isolation, so she could start baking bread when she was out.

At first, she kept things small – selling loaves at craft markets and dropping warm bread into friends' and family's letterboxes. Two loaves at a time soon turned into something much bigger, and by 2021, Tironui Sourdough had become her full-time gig.

With lots of trial and error, Alice perfected her craft and now bakes 10 different types of sourdough, including a fruit loaf, bagels, and her signature sourdough muffins.

So, why sourdough?

"I just love baking it," Alice says. "And I saw there was a real gap in the market. People kept asking for it, so I had to keep up with demand."

Now, Tironui Sourdough is a well-loved local favorite. Alice supplies her breads to cafes like the Bus Stop in Te Horo Beach and Ripe coffee roasters in Petone.

If you're looking to get your hands on some, you've got a few options:


Wednesday: Home deliveries between Ōtaki and Raumati South, pre-ordered pickups from the racecourse kitchen, and available at Seriously Pickled in Paraparaumu Beach.

Friday: Kitchen door sales and pre-orders at the racecourse, plus available at the Bus Stop Cafe in Te Horo Beach.

Saturday: Waikanae Community Market, home deliveries between Te Horo and Waikanae, and pre-ordered pickups from the racecourse kitchen.

Basically, if you're into fresh, locally made, artisan sourdough, Alice is your go-to baker. Whether you pick it up at a cafe, market, or straight from her kitchen, you're guaranteed a loaf made with passion and skill.

■ *If you want to get in touch with Alice for an order, you can call her at 020 4075 9723, email her at tironuisourdough@gmail.com, or check out her website: eattironui.com*


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HĪTŌRIA/History

Medals that tell a remarkable story spanning the world

For some years four medals lay raggedly in a small and unassuming box in one of Ōtaki Museum’s collection stores.

The medals tell of a remarkable record of service that made an otherwise ordinary British soldier, Corporal Phillip Lambert, a remarkable man.

The medals shown at right, are (from left): the Crimean War Medal (1855), the Crimean War Medal (1855), the Second China War Medal, and the New Zealand medal. These medals, as do all medals, tell the story of a soldier’s service.

This is the story they tell about Corporal Lambert.

The first three medals he won while serving in the British 44th Regiment of Foot. This was an infantry regiment raised in 1741. The two medals on the left are for service in the Crimean War, awarded by Britain and by Turkey. The British one has three clasps indicating that Lambert,

having landed with his regiment in Varna, Bulgaria, in 1854 to join British forces that had been engaged alongside France, Turkey and Sardinia in fighting Russia, was involved in three major 1854 battles – Alma, Inkerman, and the siege of Sevastopol.

The siege, and the Russian abandonment of the city after almost

DAVID LEDSON



a year defending it, led to Russia’s eventual defeat in February 1856.

A note with the medals records that during his time in Crimea, Lambert “was acquainted with Miss Florence Nightingale and had many engagements with that lady...” I eventually realised that the reference was to the Florence Nightingale. As a nurse she earned a high profile and iconic reputation in England, being referred to as “The Lady with the Lamp”.

The end of the Crimean War was quickly followed in 1857 by what the British would call the Indian Mutiny (1857); it is also referred to as ‘The Indian Rebellion’.



It was a major uprising against the rule of the British East India Company, which functioned in India as a sovereign power on behalf of the British Crown. Lambert’s regiment was dispatched to provide reinforcements, arriving, however, too late to participate in any action.

Four years later Lambert was off to another war in another country – and he was moving war by war further away from Britain, and closer to the country he would eventually call home.

The regiment sailed for China in 1860 for service in the Second Opium War – and that is the story of the third medal from the left; the Second China War Medal. The medal was issued by the British in 1861 to members of the British and Indian armies and Royal Navy who took part in that war that lasted from 1857 to 1860. Arriving in China in 1860, as the clasp on the medal identifies, Lambert was at the capture of the Taku Forts, which guarded access to the major city of Tianjin. The force then moved to Beijing, driving out the Qing dynasty emperor in October 1860. Soon after, a fragile peace was established, which lasted until 1900. Lambert and his regiment returned to Britain.

The final medal makes completing this story a challenging task. It is the New Zealand Medal,

established in 1869 and awarded to British and colonial forces who served in the New Zealand Wars, and although a number of British regiments served in those wars, Lambert’s 44th Regiment of the Foot did not. There is insufficient time for detailed research for this story to determine which regiment he did serve in, however I found an intriguing report in the December 19, 1913, issue of the *Patea Mail*. It started off: “An interesting gathering of survivors of the 43rd Regt. took place in New Plymouth recently, Col. Ellis presiding. Messrs G A Adlam, C Turnbridge, H Turnbridge, P Lambert, J Fitzgerald, and Mesdames Adlam, C Turnbridge and W Woon, the latter a daughter of the regiment, were also present.”

Service in the 43rd fits in with him living in Inglewood after he took discharge from that regiment in New Zealand, possibly in March 1866. I’m sure this remarkable man saw out his final years contentedly away from the wars and battles “attached to Empire”.

Without the work of the volunteers on the Ōtaki Heritage Collections team who identified the medals, and told me about them, this story would not have been able to be told. I thank them.



Vintage radio heaven

Graham Hawtree’s fascination with valve radios started back around 1960, and his museum project has taken some 50 odd years to get to fruition.

What started out as a fascination turned out to be a desire to preserve these historic radios. Graham has about 500 radios in his collection at Whanganui, but not all are on display at any one time, with the collection being rotated. The age of the radios range from pre-1920 (battery sets) through to about 1950, with the bulk of radios from about 1925 to 1935. The sets have been manufactured in America, England, Australia and New Zealand.

Graham says without the help of his understanding and supportive wife Val, and the contribution of other people, the museum may not have been possible.

Graham has constructed a special air conditioned building to house the collection and loves showing interested folk around.

He says, “Come and have a look at home entertainment before computers and video games, when ‘sitting around the radio’ was the greatest treat and pastime!”

“A visit will bring back memories of the time when sitting and listening to shows such as the Goons, or Life With Dexter’, or even back to the war years when Winston Churchill was live and relaying his famous speeches to the world.”

Graham welcomes groups to visit them in Whanganui, and are by appointment only. It’s also free to visit. Call 027 453 7744 or email grahamandval1@xtra.co.nz

The 2024 issue of *Ōtaki Yesterday*, featuring more stories about the people and places of old Ōtaki, is another historical publication produced by Ōtaki’s ID Media. To buy a copy as a special gift, or just for yourself, contact Debbi debbi@idmedia.co.nz or text **027 285 4720**.

Copies (including previous issues as below) \$25 each.

OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS: UNKNOWN

Compiled by Debbi Carson



MYSTERY SCHOOL PHOTO 1952

This week's photo is a mystery. No names, no school. Some girls are in uniform, the boys aren't. Do you have any information about which Ōtaki school it might be and names of the pupils? Contact debbi@idmedia.co.nz if you can help identify this.

GOT OLD PHOTOS?

Do you have old school photos, or any photos of old Ōtaki? Please get in touch, we'd love to see them.. We are building our archive so we can keep publishing snapshots of life when the town and district were younger. Email us, including names and other information if you can. Contact debbi@idmedia.co.nz with additions or corrections to captions.

Photo in January 2025 issue



ŌTAKI SCHOOL 1966 STD 4

Back row from left: Wayne Williams, Henare Waaka, Philip Healey, unknown, Terama (Patrick) Winterburn, unknown.
Row 3: Unknown, Robert Henderson, David Wilton, unknown, Mike Maunga, unknown, Puke Te Ao, Graeme Peter, unknown.
Row 2: Uma Carkeek, Paul Hawea, Darcy Gilbert, unknown, Terry Hart, unknown, Gavin Case, unknown, Stephen Mathie.
Front row: Carol Edwards, unknown, Louise Connor, Sheila Salmon, Sandra Watson, Vicki Cowie, Margaret Marchant, unknown. Teacher Mr Stevens.
 Names courtesy of Debbi Carson and Terry Hart
 CAN YOU NAME ANY MORE OF THE STUDENTS?

Quirky artist's exhibition delights family

Chinese war refugee Sue Soo earned a place in New Zealand art late in life for her quirky images of ballerinas, animals and landscapes painted on rice sacks and supermarket box cardboard.

Her granddaughter revealed at the opening of a tribute exhibition of her work at Toi Mahara, in Waikanae, that family recognition of her grandmother's achievements also took time.

Sue Soo started painting after the death of her husband in 1981.

"When you paint, you forget your loneliness," she said. "You can cry for the moon but the moon won't come down."

She and her husband had been market gardeners in Levin before running fruit shops in Raumati and then retiring to the Wellington suburb of Kilbirnie. It was there that art historian and curator Jill Trevelyan chanced to see Sue Soo's work in the window of her flat.

"I realised that she's created an entire world of her own in her pictures," Jill said. "It's such a joyful vision she has – an idyllic world where the sun is always shining, and the girls and boys go on dancing all day."

"I remember asking her where it all came from – was she thinking of a place she'd visited, that she remembered? She just laughed at me. 'I make it up!' she said. 'It's all in my head!'"



Joanne Kwok with the work of her grandmother, Sue Soo.

Photo: Kevin Ramshaw

Granddaughter Joanne Kwok says she didn't give much thought to her grandmother's arts and crafts, or her paintings, until her mother told her about Sue Soo's first exhibition at One Eye Gallery in Paekākāriki in May 2003.

"I recall feeling very proud when I found out that my granny had been discovered as an 'artist' later in

life," Joanne says. "Mum sent me a newspaper clipping about Granny. I've kept that cutting to this day.

"From then on, I paid more attention to my granny's art and began to really like the quirky style and vibrant colours. The whole family became very proud of my granny and discovered an appreciation for her artwork."

The exhibition at Toi Mahara, Kāpiti's district art gallery, includes a representative display of works selected by the gallery from about 600 paintings that Sue Soo left behind when she died in 2016. Joanne says her grandmother would be delighted to see her works displayed one more time in the new gallery.

"She used to be so surprised

when people she didn't know would be interested in her paintings. I remember her giggling like a schoolgirl when she spotted stickers next to her 'sold' paintings at various exhibitions."

Jill Trevelyan says that Sue Soo's preoccupation with ballerinas came from a love of the ballet.

"She liked to get ballet books from the library and she cut pictures of ballerinas from newspapers and magazines."

Sue Soo didn't think of herself as an artist, insisting that anyone could paint and declaring, "any dumb cluck can do it."

But Jill saw qualities that Sue didn't. Her interest led to exhibitions in public galleries, including City Gallery in Wellington, the Sarjeant in Whanganui and Mahara Gallery first in 2010.

Recognising the element of harmony – prized in Chinese culture – Sue Soo's family is donating the proceeds of sales from the exhibition to Te Ara Korowai wellness centre in Raumati, close to the Margaret Street house she once lived in with her husband, Ken, and five children.

Te Ara Korowai provides opportunities for local people to participate in creativity and well-being focused classes. Art is a significant element of the courses.

■ Sue Soo, a tribute show can be viewed in Toi Mahara's Waipuna Toi Community Space until April 6.

TAMARIKI FUN

101 year old marae re-opens

The historic whare tupuna at Te Tii Marae in Waitangi has reopened after undergoing major restoration. Thousands gathered early in the morning at Te Tou



Rangatira, the site where He Whakaputanga (the Declaration of Independence) was signed in 1835, before moving to the marae for the ceremony. The event was led by iwi from Taranaki, who conducted karakia and speeches before a hāngī was prepared for 10,000 people.

The \$5 million restoration of the 101-year-old meeting house included a new roof, extended verandah and gateway, improved landscaping, and intricate carvings inside and outside the building.

BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS FOR A GREAT START TO THE YEAR:

Help kids establish a routine that includes a time to wake up, eat breakfast, and go to bed.

Set up a dedicated area for homework that's free of distractions.

Help kids choose their clothes the night before so they're ready in the morning.

Make sure their backpack is lightweight and has padded shoulder straps and a waist strap.

Review the school rules and routines so your child knows what to expect.

Encourage kids to set meaningful and achievable goals.

Most popular Pacific baby names

Kaia and Malakai are the most popular 2024 Pacific baby names in Aotearoa New Zealand. According to the Department of Internal Affairs, Kaia was



for

the top girls name with 85 registrations, and Malakai led the boys' list with 57. Hawaiian name Kaia means the sea, and reflects the Pacific's deep ties to the ocean. Malakai, of Tongan and Fijian origin, means messenger of God and is a variation of the biblical name Malachi. Other popular Pacific names

for girls included Manaia, beautiful or nice in Sāmoan, and Leilani, Hawaiian, meaning heavenly garland of flowers. For boys, Koa, meaning brave or warrior, was second, followed by Kai, another Hawaiian name.

Tiger success in India

India has the largest population of tigers in the world, with more than 75% of these big cats living there,



according to a new study published in the journal Science. This success comes after years of dedicated conservation efforts to protect these endangered animals and their habitats. Tigers are classified as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, meaning they face a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

Extinction is when a species completely disappears from the planet, and it is permanent. To prevent this, India has set aside 138,200 square kilometres as protected areas for tigers.

WHAT IS A RIDDLE?

A riddle is a fun type of brain teaser that exists as a question or statement to be solved. Usually, riddles are worded in a puzzling or misleading way. Many have a double or hidden meaning that requires creative, outside-the-box thinking. Their answers are often unexpected, so the reader must think very carefully when solving them. Can you work these out?

1. When Grant was 8, his brother was half his age. Now, Grant is 14. How old is his brother?

2. Zoey has a very big family. She has 20 aunts, 20 uncles and 50 cousins. Each of her cousins has an aunt who is not Zoey's aunt. How is this possible?

3. Which is heavier: a ton of bricks or a ton of feathers?

See answers below.



CADE'S PUZZLE

getting back to school math

2	+	5	+	3	+	13	23
-		+		-		+	
11	+	12	-	9	-	1	13
-		-		+		-	
6	-	8	-	14	-	15	-31
+		-		+		+	
4	-	7	-	16	-	10	-29
-11		2		24		9	

Fill in the missing numbers

The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 16. Each number is only used once. Each row is a math equation. Each column is a math equation.

- ANSWERS**
1. His brother is 10. Half of 8 is 4, so Grant's brother is 4 years younger. This means when Grant is 14, his brother is still 4 years younger, so he's 10.
 2. Their aunt is Zoey's mum.
 3. Neither - they both weigh a ton.

WORD MAKER

Can you make 75 words from



What did you do on Waitangi Day?

See how many words you can make out of Waitangi.

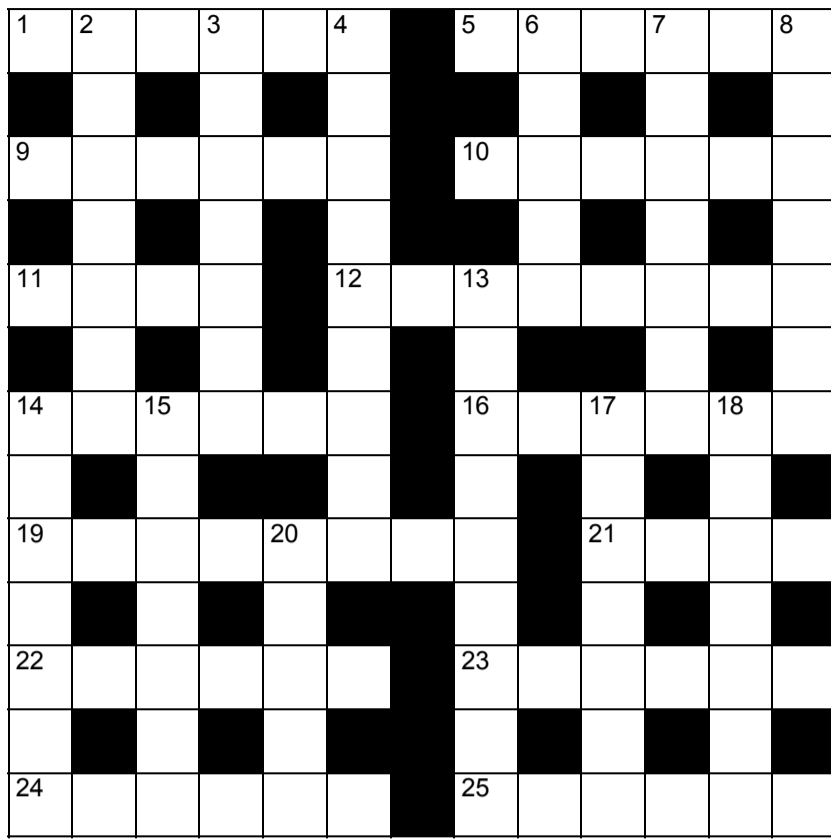
ICE CREAM FLAVOURS

Find our yummy ice cream flavours in this word search. What's your favourite flavour? I love vanilla with chocolate dip!

- COCONUT
- STRAWBERRY
- VANILLA
- FUDGE
- ROCKY ROAD
- COOKIE DOUGH
- NEOPOLITAN
- COTTON CANDY
- HOKEY POKEY
- CHOCOLATE
- MOOSE TRACKS
- GREEN TEA
- TIGER TAIL
- PECAN
- REESES
- BANANA

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

THE CROSSWORD #NZNZ1937F (answers below)



ACROSS

- 1. Our first female Foreign Affairs Minister, Nanaia ____ (6)
- 5. Commotion (6)
- 9. Woolshed worker (colloq) (6)
- 10. Post-injury therapy (abbr) (6)
- 11. Government agency that researches air and water (abbr) (1,1,1,1)
- 12. Town at junction of Clutha and Kawarau rivers (8)
- 14. Protect, defend (6)
- 16. City with suburbs of Beachville, Marybank and Toi Toi (6)
- 19. New Zealand's men's softball team (5,3)
- 21. Repast (4)
- 22. Medicinal potion (6)
- 23. NZ band that

- had a hit with *One Day* (2,4)
 - 24. Sample (6)
 - 25. Uncomplicated (6)
- DOWN**
- 2. Do away with (7)
 - 3. Overshadow (7)
 - 4. NZ regional phone call prefixes (4,5)
 - 6. New Zealander awarded the Victoria Cross twice in WWII (5)
 - 7. Own (7)
 - 8. Puffed up (7)
 - 13. Objectionable (9)
 - 14. Item under discussion (7)
 - 15. Slanted writing (7)
 - 17. One-off payment (4,3)
 - 18. Having a streak of luck (2,1,4)
 - 20. Blade (5)

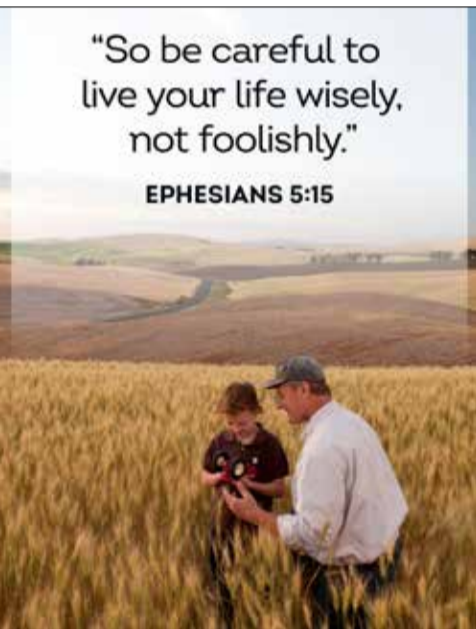
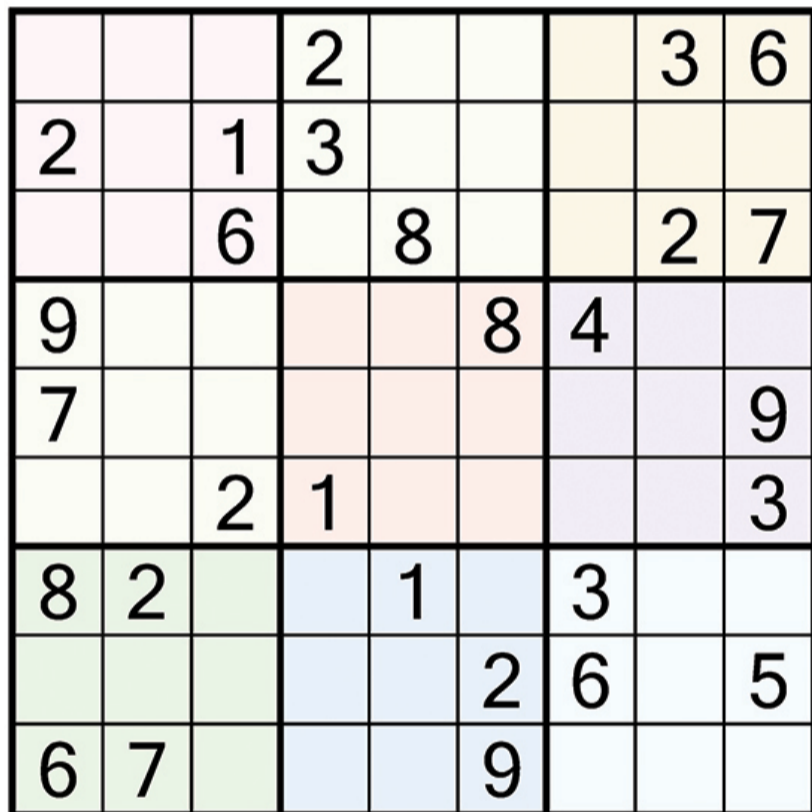


ANIMALS AT PARLIAMENT QUIZ? Answers below.

1. Staff used to keep cats at Parliament to work as "mousers" and stop rodents eating the food at Bellamy's. True or false?
2. Cats have given birth to kittens in the debating chamber. True or false?
3. Pigs and other farm animals have been kept as stock on the Parliament grounds. True or false?
4. In 1939, two rams were brought to Parliament for inspection by the Minister of Agriculture ahead of their travel to England for the Royal Centenary Show in Windsor. True or false?
5. A fishpond once existed behind Parliament, where 5000 goldfish were set free, and members of the public could pick them up and take them home. True or false?
6. In the late 19th Century and early 20th century, politicians walking on Molesworth Street would be serenaded by Charles "Piccolo Charlie" Evans and his terrier on their way to work. True or false?
7. In 1940, the mascot of the No. 1 Dog of the Second NZ Expeditionary Force and regimental mascot of 19 Battalion and Armoured Regiment, Major Major, was spotted in his unit's parade around Wellington and on the Parliament Grounds. True or false?
8. In the 1940s pigeons would fly through the windows into the Debating Chamber and roost on the ledges during Parliamentary Prayers. True or false?
9. In 1977, the Parliamentary Library had to close its doors during the session for the first time in history due to a flea infestation in the basements requiring the fumigation of the building. True or false?
10. In 2019, rabbits annihilated an entire vegetable patch planted at Parliament by children as part of a curriculum resource – Dig for Victory. True or false?

SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

EASY #80M 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 at right..



WAITANGI: WORD MAKER ANSWERS from page 22:

- 8-letters: 1. awaiting. 7-letters: 2. waiting 3. ignatia. 6-letter words: 4. tawing 5. witing 6. atwain. 5-letter: 7. awing 8. twang 9. wigan 10. await 11. twain 12. witan 13. again 14. agita 15. atigi 16. giant 17. taiga 18. tanga. 4-letters: 19. wait 20. want 21. agin 22. anga 23. gain 24. gait 25. gnat 26. naga 27. tang 28. ting 29. anta 30. anti 31. inia 32. inti 33. tain 34. tian 35. gnaw 36. twig 37. wing 38. twin 39. wain. 3-letters: 40. wig 41. awa 42. awn 43. naw 44. taw 45. twa 46. wan 47. wat 48. win 49. wit 50. aga 51. gan 52. gat 53. gin 54. git 55. nag 56. tag 57. ain 58. ait 59. ana 60. ani 61. ant 62. nit 63. tan 64. tin. 2-letter: 65. ag 66. gi 67. aa 68. ai 69. an 70. at 71. in 72. it 73. na 74. ta 75. ti.



Ōtaki River entrance tides February 12 - March 14

<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 12 FEB -	04:45	11:01	17:07	23:20	
THU 13 FEB -	05:23	11:37	17:45	23:56	
FRI 14 FEB -	05:59	12:11	18:20		
SAT 15 FEB 00:29	06:32	12:43	18:54		
SUN 16 FEB 01:00	07:04	13:14	19:26		
MON 17 FEB 01:31	07:35	13:46	19:59		
TUE 18 FEB 02:03	08:08	14:20	20:33		
WED 19 FEB 02:38	08:45	14:58	21:11		
THU 20 FEB 03:19	09:29	15:44	21:57		
FRI 21 FEB 04:11	10:26	16:42	22:56		
SAT 22 FEB 05:22	11:42	17:54			
SUN 23 FEB -	00:12	06:48	13:06	19:14	
MON 24 FEB -	01:35	08:05	14:16	20:26	
TUE 25 FEB -	02:41	09:01	15:10	21:22	
WED 26 FEB -	03:32	09:47	15:56	22:09	
THU 27 FEB -	04:16	10:29	16:39	22:52	
FRI 28 FEB -	04:57	11:09	17:21	23:34	
SAT 1 MAR -	05:38	11:50	18:03		
SUN 2 MAR 00:15	06:20	12:31	18:45		
MON 3 MAR 00:57	07:03	13:14	19:29		
TUE 4 MAR 01:40	07:47	13:59	20:14		
WED 5 MAR 02:26	08:36	14:48	21:03		
THU 6 MAR 03:17	09:32	15:44	21:58		
FRI 7 MAR 04:20	10:38	16:51	23:05		
SAT 8 MAR 05:39	11:58	18:11			
SUN 9 MAR -	00:29	07:10	13:22	19:38	
MON 10 MAR -	01:54	08:25	14:30	20:49	
TUE 11 MAR -	02:57	09:19	15:23	21:41	
WED 12 MAR -	03:45	10:01	16:06	22:22	

CLASSIFIEDS



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

TAKĀRO/Sport



Senior tennis comp off to flying start

The opening round of senior interclub saw Ōtaki Sports Club's four women's tennis doubles teams in action for two wins and two losses.

Three of the four games were played at home on the evening of February 4, and one was played against Island Bay at the Renouf Centre in Wellington.

At Wellington, Ōtaki 1 beat Island Bay 2. Ōtaki 2 managed a win against Ōtaki 3 at the club's home courts

Ōtaki 4 – Ōtaki Sports Club's new team this season – hosted Ngāio at home and lost after some close games.

Pictured at home (above left) are members of the Ōtaki 2 and 3 teams. From left they are: Ema Moore, Te Paea Selby-Rickit,

Christina Tuitupou and Monique Moore (Ōtaki 2); and from Ōtaki 3 Jess Lemana, Elyse Williams, Shelley Mecoy and Rebecca Spiller.

Pictured above are members of the Ōtaki 4 team. From left: Jess Singleton, Marcia Ohlson-Woodrooffe, Vicky Rukuwai and Ashleigh McBeth.

Photos supplied

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