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Supremely New World Ōtaki

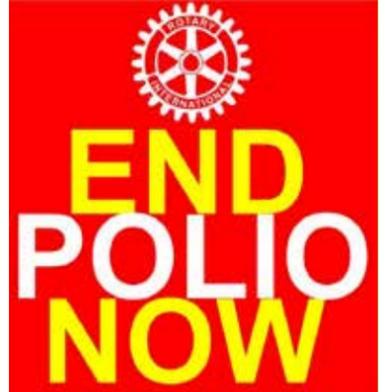


Neil Simmonds, Chief Executive of Electra with Ōtaki New World Owners Steven and Janine Cole

BY ANN CHAPMAN

After just two years of operating Ōtaki's New World, Steve and Janine Cole have taken out the big prize in this year's Electra Business Awards. 'It's like we're living in a dream,' said Janine still on a high after their big wins. They also won the Large Business Excellence Award and shared the "Give Where You Live" Award with Kāpiti Funeral Home. They are a good pair. Steve did a brain dump, the big picture, when they first decided to enter. Janine attended to the details and put the application together, all 70 pages of it. 'We did it for ourselves to learn,' said Steve. That wasn't the end of the process however as the Awards judges then interrogated the application with the zeal of forensic scientists. 'The judges were very talented and qualified and thanks to them, they have helped us to grow,' said Janine. 'It's an honour for them to give up their time and their experience to help us.' 'They were very thorough,' said Steve. 'They tested every claim. It's provided us with a snapshot of our business and to see where we can

do things better, not only with the finances but also holistically.' They think the opportunity for self-reflection has been good. They can now see ways of doing things better and to see how far they have come in two years. 'We can now maximise every opportunity to do things better and even going through the process they could see ways to improve.' 'Our team here at New World has great dedication. We have been able to build on former owner Mark's legacy to form a stable workforce where people feel safe coming to work and where they enjoy it once they're here. I am grateful that we have people around us with a focus on our customers.' They feel the "Give Where You Live" Award is really special as their kaupapa is to give to the community and rather than donate to national charities. They donate their time, money and goods to our local causes. Congratulations to Ōtaki New World and their staff. Here is Ōtaki punching above its weight again.



Rotary polio initiative p3



Local body Elections p6



Edhouses transformation to Māoriland p7



Harry Hall the Donkey man p10



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Enliven residents walk to remember

Residents from the Levin Home for War Veterans turned out to mark World Alzheimer's Month at the Levin Memory Walk held last month.

Alzheimer's Month is an international campaign to raise awareness and challenge the stigma that surrounds dementia.

In New Zealand, four out of five Kiwis are affected by dementia in some way. About 700,000 New Zealanders are living with dementia, and this is expected to almost triple by 2050.

Memory Walks were held around the country during September as a way to show support for those living with dementia, their families, friends and care partners.

A group of residents, volunteers and staff from the Levin Home for War Veterans participated in their local Memory Walk at the Levin Adventure Park on 18 September.

"The residents had a great time," says Levin Home for War Veterans diversional therapy team leader Debra O'Neill.

"We all had our purple Memory Walk t-shirts on and bright sun hats."

Levin Home for War Veterans has dedicated dementia care, designed to provide a warm, welcome and home-like environment for its residents and their families.

There were 20 Memory Walks held around the country in late September.

Levin Home for War Veterans offers rest home, hospital and dementia care, as well as health recovery and short-term respite care.

To learn more about the home, which is located on Prouse Street, visit www.enlivencentral.org.nz or call 06 366 0052.



Levin Home for War Veterans resident Barry Thaeckwell and Maisie the dog took part in the Levin Memory Walk during World Alzheimer's Month.

Sponsored content

Are your assets well protected?

BY FLEUR HOBSON

Many people have major assets, such as their family home, but these assets may not be protected against a series of events. The family home may be insured, protecting the asset in case of events such as fire, earthquake and other natural disasters.

But it may not be protected against claims against a family member or members, or against action by creditors. It may not provide the necessary protection following a relationship breakdown. It may not protect the interests of children, ensuring they and not their partners keep their inheritances. These are just three examples.

One way to provide this type of protection is to establish a family trust.

To do this, a person or people transfer the legal ownership of named assets to the trust. At the same time, the people

transferring the ownership can continue to use and enjoy the assets as long as the trust deed allows.

While that may sound simple enough, setting up a trust is anything but simple, and you will need expert advice from a lawyer experienced in trust work, and usually also need the advice of an accountant experienced in trusts.

There are many things to think about.

One thing to consider early is whether you will receive enough benefit to justify the cost. Family trusts cost time and money to set up, and there are usually ongoing legal and accounting fees to pay.

When thinking about whether or not it is worthwhile for you to set up a trust it is very helpful to get advice from a lawyer. That is because it is often not a simple exercise in costs versus benefits, and it also depends on what you want to achieve.

Take, for example, a family with a special needs child. Because a trust is probably the best way to protect funds set aside for a special needs child, the equation may well be very different from another family. Another example is where people want to reduce the value of what they own so they can qualify for a residential care subsidy when that time comes.

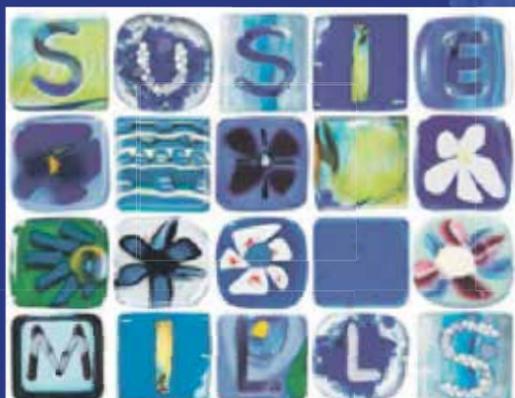
There are three main parties to a trust.

The first party is the settlor or settlors – the person or people who transfer ownership of property to the trust.

The second party is the trustee or trustees – the people that the settlor or settlors appoint to manage the trust. A trust normally has two or more trustees. They need to be people the settlors have confidence in. A settlor can choose to also be a trustee. It is highly recommended that one of the trustees is an independent person, such as the settlor's accountant or a corporate trustee.

The third party to a trust is the beneficiaries. These are the people the trust has been set up to benefit.

If you are looking for more information or advice on protecting your assets, including setting up a family trust, we would be only too happy to help you. Contact Fleur or Susie at Susie Mills Law 2019, 364 7190, 282 Mill Road – opposite Farmlands.



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For news, please tell us on 06 364 5500 or by email at otakimail@xtra.co.nz

Otaki Rotary's \$50,000 Polio fundraiser becomes \$150,000

Otaki's Rotary branch organised a hugely successful fundraiser for Polio which spanned the entire Wellington region, raising around \$50,000. "Local member Michael Fagg, a true Polio Champion, and ably assisted by wife Heather, has exceeded even his own high standards, with an outstanding Fundraising Event 'Ride the Train' for Polio in 2019," says Otaki President Grant Robertson.

"Every Rotary Club in District 9940, covering New Plymouth to Masterton, has raised approximately \$30 per Rotarian, so there's \$30,000 to start with, and on Thursday 24 October, Rotarians criss crossed the Wellington Rail Network, raising awareness and Funds for Polio.

"Polio eradication has long been a 'Signature' program for Rotary International, for almost 30 years. From millions affected worldwide, now only two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan, remain affected. Whole Continents cleared of this plague by regular and tenacious vaccinations!"

"It is anticipated that by this weekend, over \$50,000 will have been raised! Here's the twist, for every dollar Rotary raise, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation pay \$2 towards Polio eradication! So well done Michael on spearheading this excellent Event," says Grant.

Earlier in the year Michael had raised his fundraising idea with Wellington Regional councillor Penny Gaylor.

"Michael's unique idea was uncharted territory but with such a worthy cause, and with the known fundraising experience of Rotary, Regional council staff worked with Michael and other

organisations to get permission and put the planning in place for this huge undertaking," says Cr Penny Gaylor. Penny rode the train for part of the event

and passengers and train staff were incredibly supportive. "Thanks everyone who made the fundraiser possible, and for everyone's generous donations."



Editorial

Celebrating the Sun and the Arts

We're coming up to the sunny season. That time of the annual calendar when our artists, gardeners and writers dust off their gloomy winter gear to enchant us with their achievements.

There is a wealth of writers in our small community and this month the Otaki Mail features three books. Prolific writer Renée, at the age of 90, decided to write a murder story. Cosy Noir, she calls it. Otaki Mail writer Vivienne Bailey features in a new anthology of New Zealand writers and the Friends of the Otaki River have published a 20-year anniversary memoir. And over the past few years many others have had books published, and it is a long hard journey to finally hold your book in your hands.

Oriwa Hakaria, who we featured last month is off to the Toronto Film Festival with her debut film Bub. The Maoriland Hub reminds us of the talents of our film makers with their support and encouragement of our rangatahi.

Musician, Andrew London, also featured last month, is staging monthly gigs in the Railway Hotel calling them the Stationhouse Blues. He along with other visiting bands keep the listeners amused with his own rather irreverent songs.

We have choirs providing music for all, singing under the pitch perfect skill of Ann-Marie Stapp. The joy of singing is said to have positive health benefits never mind the pleasure in listening.

Next month 14 of our artists have their wares on display in the Annual Kapiti Arts' Trail. The Otaki Mail has always featured them, proud to commend their work. There is a wealth of diversity for us to see and buy.

Artists of a different style are on show during the Te Horo Garden Trail, when the artistry, and deftness in colour and form show the skill of gardeners in their gardens, growing lush in our temperate climate. Thirteen diverse gardens will open their gates for us to wander around.

Rain or shine during the next few months in Otaki, there will be much to keep us busy as we celebrate the wealth of talent we have living here.

Thumbs up



- Electra Awards congratulations to Supreme Winner Otaki New World
- Congratulations to all finalists and winners of the Electra Business Awards
- Congratulations to Kapiti Olive Oil for another 'Best in Show Award' and three silver medals
- Ruth Pretty - winner Outstanding Caterer, Wellington Hospitality awards

Thumbs down



- Spate of thefts – Otaki Health Camp and the recent community plantings at the river mouth.

OTAKI MAIL MADNESS

"Climate change" does not mean changing your whole wardrobe for summer!





BY VIVIENNE BAILEY

Te Horo School excels at national theatre competition

A small group of performers from the Te Horo School 'Mary Poppins' production recently took part in the Junior Theatre Celebration New Zealand in Auckland. Their performance earned the group an award 'Excellence Ensemble,' and students, Zara Simpson Bird and Robbie Upshon, were singled out and recognised for their singing and performing skills.

Special mention must also go to Pierre Gerrard Lange and Freddie Sayer who gave up their time to busk at Ruth Pretty's over several Fridays, raising an amazing \$1560.40, which the lads generously put toward the Auckland trip (for the 'Mary Poppins' group).

Christmas Carols

The Te Horo Home & School Committee is staging their traditional celebration of Christmas at the school on Friday, 13 December, 5 pm to 7 pm. This is a 'feel-good' family event, with Santa making an early in the season appearance. You can bring a picnic or support the school's food stalls (BBQ, pizzas and treats).

Te Horo School Ag Night Wednesday 13 November

A rural community highlight, to date there are 32 lambs, eight calves and ten kids (goats) enrolled. With the help from Farmlands (donating diaries) enrolled children will be able to keep track of their young animals' progress – more on this next month.

Ruth Pretty's Christmas Vintage Market Day

Ruth Pretty's Kitchen Shop will host a Christmas Vintage Market Day on Sunday 3 November with the festive theme: "Let me help you dock your halls with holly and ivy as you create a Christmas spirit."

Continuing with the Christmas focus, Ruth currently has bite-sized pieces of her renowned Christmas cake to go with your coffee, "we have continuous tastings of Christmas cake available in our Kitchen Shop."

Te Horo Community Hall

Standing on its original site, the hall is part of Te Horo's rural heritage. Built in 1914, and remembered fondly by older locals, "the wonderful dances and balls at Te Horo Hall," it needs earthquake-strengthening to remain in your community – do support fundraising efforts by visiting Te Horo's gardens – details on this page.

Te Horo Country Market

Te Horo's monthly community market is on Sunday, 3 November, 10.30 am to 12.30 pm at Te Horo Hall – around 40 stalls featuring a range of local produce, foods, crafts, plants and seedlings.

Drinks and Nibbles

With daylight saving, it's a perfect time to visit Te Horo Hall for the regular community get-together, Friday, 1 November 5.30 pm. Bring a bottle and a plate of finger food to share. All welcome.

Raising funds for Te Horo Hall earthquake strengthening

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AND at Te Horo Community Hall over the tour weekend

Key sponsor



also



Diabetes tests

Ōtaki Lions will be offering blood sugar tests outside Ōtaki New World on Friday 15th November to commemorate Lions International Day for Diabetes. The Ōtaki Community Board has given Lions funding to offer these tests free to the community. Pat Futter and Jenny Glen will be administering the tests and want to assure everyone that it's not painful! It just involves a tiny finger prick, and seconds later you have your result.

Ōtaki Lions Club works in association with the Diabetic Society of New

Zealand, whose theme this year is 'It's About Time'.

Ōtaki is a high-risk demographic for diabetes with a high chance of already pre-diabetic people being unaware of the risk they carry. If the risk is identified via a simple test such as this, the chances of a good outcome are very real.

So far Pat and Jenny have tested 889 people in the last year, with 189 at the recent Otaki Community Expo. Come

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has made our job easier, think websites, emails and data bases v's Phone calls, snail mail and viewing 10 houses a day with buyers! This is balanced somewhat by ever increasing Compliance issues!!

Grant & Derek, as the face of First National are a leading force in our local Kapiti - Horowhenua marketplace as we have the best local knowledge, proven experience and results, a high level of trust and rapport, and continue to be highly competitive on fees.

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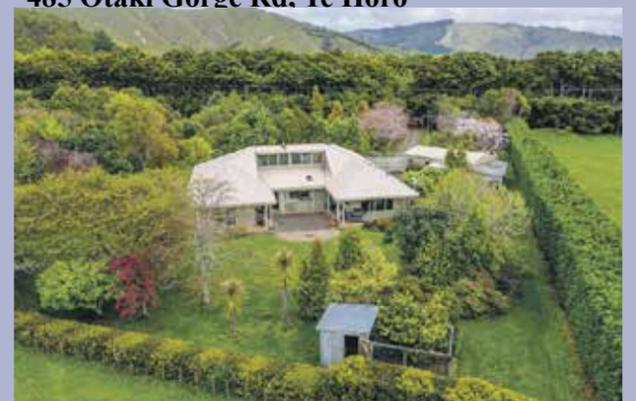
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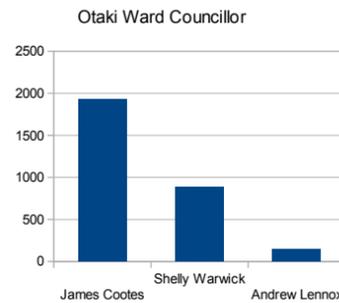
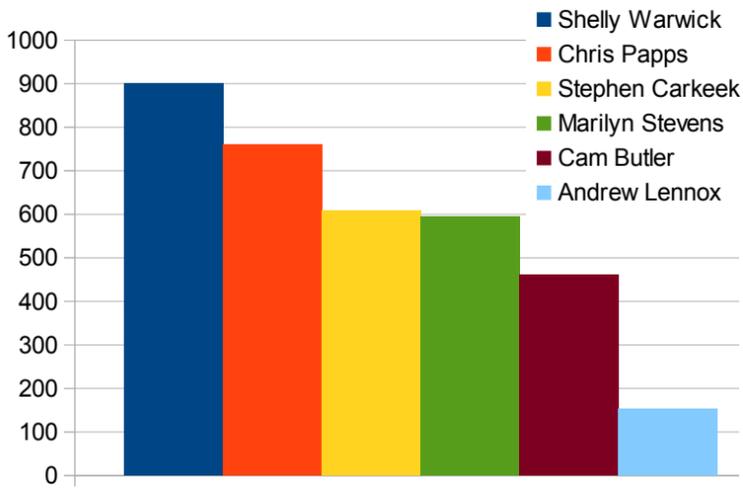
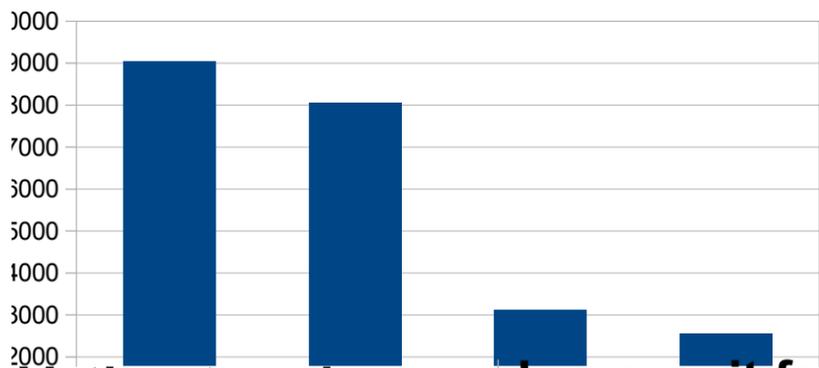
Your gorgeous and unique family home is perfectly located in the heart of 'Totara Tunnel'. This perfect hectare is situated in its own private and serene beauty amongst regenerative native woodlands, sustainable horticulture and well-maintained vegetable gardens. This property will capture your imagination, with all the possibilities of creating a sustainable lifestyle for your family.

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2019 Local Body Election Results

Otaki Community Board

KCDC Mayorality



Voting trends

BY LLOYD CHAPMAN

Kapiti’s voters appeared pretty complacent, compared to their Northern neighbours.

Of the 30 provincial districts, Kapiti scored 26th, with only 40.9% turnout down 7% on 2016. In Horowhenua, the turnout was 54.6% making it 4th on the nation’s voter turnout statistics. Perhaps this could be attributed to the ‘dumping’ of incumbent mayor Feyen.

In Kapiti, Mayor Gurunathan defeated challenger Compton by nearly 1,000 votes.

Long wait for election results

BY FRANK NEILL

It was a long, long wait for Ōtaki residents wanting to see the results of this year’s local body elections.

Voting closed at noon on 12 October, and people watching the various internet sites displaying the results began announcing results soon after 1pm. Stuff, for example, posted the following at 1:18pm: “Looks like we might have our first upset of the 2019 elections!” Lower Hutt had a new Mayor when Campbell Barry defeated incumbent Ray Wallace.

At 1:34pm, Stuff announced that 95 percent of Hutt City’s votes had been counted.

The Auckland mayorality result was known by 2pm.

It would be another 9 hours after the Auckland result was known before the Kāpiti results were announced, at around 11pm.

For those waiting and watching the Stuff website, there was an indication at 5:47pm that the results would take some more time. “Results for Kāpiti are currently expected about 7pm,” Stuff said.

That forecast would prove to be optimistic by about four hours, with the Kāpiti results among the last in New Zealand to be announced.

There were four reasons it took so long to count votes, a Kāpiti Coast District Council spokesperson told the Ōtaki Mail.

Firstly, the election used the Single Transferable Voting (STV) system, and STV votes take longer to process.

The second reason was that Kāpiti had a large proportion of eligible voters submit their votes in the last few days.

Thirdly, Kāpiti had a high number of special votes. And fourthly, “unlike some other councils across the country, we

counted all the votes we received on the day,” the spokesperson said.

In terms of indications on both the Stuff and the New Zealand Herald websites of when the Kāpiti results would be available, the council spokesperson said they did not know where they got their information from.

The Herald website, for example, indicated that Kāpiti’s results would not be known until the next day.

“We had always said that our results would be known later that evening,” the spokesperson said, adding that they did not specify a time.

Fewer than half the people eligible to vote actually voted in this year’s elections. Including special votes, 45.36 percent of those eligible voted across the whole Kāpiti Coast District.

The figure for the Ōtaki Ward was 44.02%

Stephen Carkeek Ōtaki’s newest representative

BY FRANK NEILL

Ōtaki gained a new local body representative when Stephen Carkeek was elected to the Ōtaki Community Board.

“I thought this was an opportunity to do something different, so I put my name in for the community board,” Mr Carkeek says.

“The big thing for me is the environment – sustainability of the environment around Ōtaki.

“I love Ōtaki. Ōtaki has been and is my playground,” he says, listing many of the things he has enjoyed, such as swimming, walking along the beach, fishing, whitebaiting and hunting in the Tararuas and Akatarawas.

“Something I’d like to see is the next generation being able to enjoy these things as well. “We are here to guide things, and make sure those things we cherish are looked after.”

That, he says, “is a big part of why I put my name in the hat.

“If we get growth in Ōtaki, we don’t know what will happen with the environment.”

His aim, he says, is to bring balance into the decision-making around growth, the environment and climate change.

As he speaks, the green space between his Ōtaki beach home and the town centre provides a background harmonious with Mr Carkeek’s vision.

Born in Palmerston North in 1968, Mr Carkeek’s parents lived in Ōtaki. He went to the kindergarten located where Te Wānanga o Raukawa now stands. After primary school education at Waitohu School, he attended Ōtaki College.

He played rugby for Rahui until he was 16 and was a member of both the Ōtaki Surf Lifesaving Club and the Ōtaki Swimming Club.

After leaving college Mr Carkeek spent the next 20 years working as a shearer in wool sheds all around New Zealand as well as Western Australia.

He then spent 12 years as a prison officer

at both Mangaroa Prison in the Hawkes Bay and Manawatu Prison.

His next, and latest, career move was to



become an animal control officer with the Horowhenua District Council, where he works today.

Mr Carkeek’s first wife passed away seven years ago, and he is now married to Tiriata. He has three daughters: Heni Te Whiwhi, Bessie and Latisha.

Mr Carkeek has some fascinating ancestry. He is of Ngāti Rawkawa and Ngāti Toa descent, and is a descendant of Matene Te Whiwhi. His grandfather, Rikihana Carkeek married Hemaima Te Hiwi.

His great great great grandfather was a very noted early settler, who had the same name – Stephen Carkeek.

Born in Wales in 1815, Mr Carkeek arrived in New Zealand in 1840 as an officer of the Customs Service. He was a member of Sir George Grey’s first Legislative Council and became the first Inspector and Commissioner of Customs for New Zealand in 1858.

In 1864, Mr Carkeek established New Zealand’s first timeball, in Wellington, to provide nautical time to shipping. He also became famous for the private observatory he established in Featherston, where he lived after he retired.

A Village pub for Manakau?

BY TOM FREWEN

A village pub was one idea that attracted support at a recent community pow wow organised by the Horowhenua District Council to talk about the future for Manakau, 8km north of Ōtaki on SH1.

But Manakau already has the makings of an ideal English village pub in its bowling and sports club on Mokena Kohere St. The club’s premises, over the railway crossing from the main road and opposite the school, would lend themselves very well to the ‘village inn’ role, says Roger Tidman, president of Manakau Bowling and Sports Club Inc.

‘It has a licensed bar, a well-equipped

certified commercial kitchen, a great BBQ and, of course, a very pleasant outdoor area,’ he says.

That’s the bowling green which doesn’t get a lot of use these days. ‘We have dis-affiliated ourselves from the national body,’ says Roger, although we still welcome players and teams from local clubs.’

The green is available to anyone wanting to ‘have a go’ and informal competitions are popular on long summer evenings. Newly installed heat pumps keep the place cosy in winter and the rooms are available year-round for social gatherings and indoor sports such as pool and darts.

‘There is plenty of scope for expansion,’ says Roger. ‘For instance, on summer Sunday afternoons, you could have an end or two of bowls, or a game of darts or pool, with a beer or wine in the sun and a steak or sausage off the BBQ, fish ‘n’ chips, or a burger or a Sunday roast.

‘We also have the ever-popular quarterly quiz nights and the rooms are usually available for small private functions such as engagement parties, wedding breakfasts, funerals and committee meetings.’

‘We are offering the community a chance to see what’s on offer,’ says Roger. Locals have been invited to drop in on the inn that the club hopes to create for their

village. The club is open on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 5.30pm.



Taking Ōtaki's pulse

Live well, get well, stay well

By Ann Chapman

Cancer Society Horowhenua

Remember to be SunSmart

Cancer Society
Te Kaitiaki Matapōhūhū
i Aotearoa

Slip, slop, slap and wrap!

Levin, Foxton and Ōtaki Diary November 2019

Monday 4	Foxton Support Group (St Johns Hall, Avenue Road)	11.30am
Thursday 7	Massage: (post treatment)– ph 06 3688624 for apt. Winchester House.	9.30am to 2.30pm
Wednesday 13	Ōtaki Support Group. Gertrude Atmore Supper Rooms.	2.30pm
Monday 18	Natural Wear. Ph 0800 622 397 for appt. Winchester House.	
Wednesday 20	Rimu Group – Men's Support. Winchester House.	3pm
Thursday 21	Lymphoedema Support. Winchester House.	5pm
Tuesday 26	Coffee Club. Women's Support. Winchester House.	10am
Wednesday 27	Pure Breast Care. Ph 0800 259 061 for appt. Winchester House.	9am to 2pm

For further information on any of the above please contact:
Jennie Wylie, Support Coordinator, Horowhenua Services
 112 Winchester Street, Levin 5510
 Ph 06 367 8065, Fax 06 367 8057, Mob 027 542 0066
 email jennie.wylie@cancercd.org.nz

New service for breast cancer patients

Breast Cancer Foundation NZ (BCFNZ) and Midcentral DHB are partnering to offer Thriving, a new support service that's an alternative to outpatient clinic follow-up for low-risk early breast cancer patients who've completed surgery and radiation therapy.

The service has just launched, with the first 10 patients expected to enrol during October.

The chief executive of BCFNZ, Evangelia Henderson, says the new service turns the traditional follow-up model on its head.

"Instead of focussing on disease, the service will have a wellness focus, promoting healthy lifestyles to prevent recurrence, and advising and supporting patients to access counselling and physical rehab - including lymphoedema support - and other services," she says.

The new Thriving service, available to selected early breast cancer patients and those with DCIS, will be managed by BCFNZ nurse Melissa Warren. "This new approach takes into account patients' emotional and psychological as well as physical wellbeing, and it involves whānau, too," she says. "The traditional model of follow-up was disease-focussed and not helpful for people in moving forward. This will

put them more in control."

Melissa will call and email patients at regular intervals for five years after their primary breast cancer treatment. If they need to, patients can also contact Melissa between scheduled contact to discuss any concerns.

Patients enrolled in the Thriving service will remain under the clinical responsibility of their specialist at Palmerston North Hospital, but won't need to routinely attend outpatient follow-up clinics. "This will have real benefits, especially for those with mobility issues," says Melissa.

Melissa will ensure patients have annual mammograms, and will arrange rapid access to MDHB specialist care/clinics for patients if new symptoms occur.

Mrs Henderson says the aim is for patients to attain an excellent quality of life after breast cancer treatment.

"We hope the Thriving service will meet patients' support needs, while freeing up MDHB outpatient clinic resources to deliver best care to new or high-risk breast cancer patients," she says. "It's a really exciting innovation."

MidCentral's New Board Member.

After 19 years Ōtaki has lost its voice around the district health board table. While the new board may be Palmerston North centric, there is some hope for us on the border of the MDHB region.

Jenny Warren is a near neighbour with ties to Ōtaki. She lives in Levin and her mother-in-law is from Ōtaki. She is a childbirth educator, consumer representative and advocate for maternal care.

After a career in banking and management she trained in maternal health in a non-clinical role after the birth of her first child. At that point she was invited to become a consumer representative on the Horowhenua Maternity Reference Group at the time when MCDHB built the new health centre.

Undeterred by the potential changes in the health system already heralded by Government, she says that after spending time on national committees, and in multidisciplinary committees she has been exposed to the wider health environment and

therefore understands the challenges now and those to come. She accepts the reality of the chronic underfunding of health in the past. She especially understands from the view of the consumer and she simply wants to be part of the solution.

'All DHBs need to stand strong in their quest for increased funding. We need to stand strong in our appeal to the Minister and Ministry to address the workforce concerns and resolve their issues. In some parts of the system there are chronic shortfalls in experienced staff. And maybe the review will lead to some changes. While the status quo exists, we must get on with providing the best we can and ensure structural changes benefit all our communities.'

'I will apply my 'equity lens' to the outlying communities like Ōtaki and ensure they have a voice so that quality care is accessible to them. I am married into a whānau who whakapapa to Ōtaki and Ngati Raukawa. I also currently provide a service to Ōtaki in my day job. I want to ensure I am connected to support this community.'

The good news is that she has agreed to keep Ōtaki informed with a regular column in the Ōtaki Mail.



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Edhouses - the evolution to Māoriland

BY MADELEINE DE YOUNG



Edhouses back in the 'sixties

We live in an era where grim stories of horror and destruction can be found at every turn. A lot of it is in the news. A lot of it is in our social media feeds. A lot of it has nothing to do with us at home. The value of storytelling is more important than ever, but we live in times of rampant communication. Truth is hard to find. A space to truly talk to another person is sometimes hard to locate. We human beings need spaces to be, to talk, to exist. On Ōtaki's Main Street you'll find one such space - the Māoriland Hub - home to the Māoriland Film Festival and a kaupapa that celebrates the voice of Indigenous peoples, native imaginations, ideas and discourse. In March 2020 the Hub will celebrate three years since its doors opened to the world. How did it get here? What does it have to offer Ōtaki, the Kāpiti Coast, and beyond these shores?

In March 2020, the Māoriland Film Festival (MFF) will celebrate its seventh year in Sunny Ōtaki, attracting visitors from across the world to enjoy a week of Indigenous cinema, arts and storytelling. Māoriland Film Festival is now the largest international Indigenous film festival in the Southern Hemisphere attracting over 12,000 visitors from as far abroad as the Arctic Circle, the Americas, Hawai'i, and numerous nations across the Pacific. The festival is a highlight on calendars globally. However, for the rest of the year, the diverse celebrations of story continue at the Māoriland Hub.

Māoriland Film Festival was launched in 2014 by Libby Hakaraia, Tainui Stephens, Pat Hakaraia and Tania Hakaraia. The dream was and remains, to bring Indigenous cinema to Ōtaki; To provide a fully functioning and atmospheric venue for Indigenous storytellers to share their work; and for the community to enjoy the many and varied stories that can be told in our corner of the world.

In that first year, the fledgling festival had next-to-no budget, no offices, no staff. After quotes for billboards came back at almost double the meagre \$2,000 advertising budget, Libby came across a caravan for sale on the highway. It was exactly \$2,000 and became everything - mobile advertisement, festival office, ticket booth, kaumatua cafeteria - you name it. The Piri Pod as it came to be known travelled all across the Kāpiti Coast to tell everyone about the upcoming festival.

The festival itself was a roaring success with 54 shorts, 9 feature films - and the hilarious mock trial of the now globally beloved Taika Waititi. It was at this festival that Waititi met Julian Dennison who was attending in support of his first feature, *Shopping*. They are both tāne Māori with global careers.

Over the next two years, the MFF team were able to hire incrementally larger premises for the period of the festival: from the shoebox-sized office next to the Civic Theatre, to the offices where Temperton's Accountants are now situated. It quickly became apparent that the festival needed its own home from which to operate: all year-round.

In 2016, the Māoriland Charitable Trust was formed - its purpose is to improve social, economic and educational opportunities for the community of Ōtaki. From there on, the ball was set rolling! The Festival was to become only one of the Trust's activities.

The decision was made to seek premises in the town to be an HQ for a Māoriland kaupapa that was clearly growing. The Edhouses building became available, and Libby was able to shake hands on a reasonable deal. The Trust then set about raising the funds to purchase the premises. In time they were successful and one week before the 2017 film festival the MCT received the keys to move in! It was all hands on deck and has been ever since. The hands have been many and willing! E mihi ana ki ngā ringa wera, ki ngā ringa tautoko katoa.

The Māoriland Hub is dedicated to uplifting Māori and Indigenous artists. In one view of its kaupapa it is a Whare Tapere - a house of inspiration and story. A house of universal potential where economic, social and cultural wellbeing is generated and supported. To date, the Māoriland Hub has hosted over 185 events, and welcomed over 20,000 people through its historic doors. Highlights over the past two years include the annual Matariki programme of events; live musical acts including Eurovision finalists, Electric Fields, The Māori Side Steps, Moana Maniapoto, and Rob Ruha; live theatre; the inspirational NATIVE Minds lecture series; A Latin American Film festival; Organic mahi ahūwhenua; Hauora programmes and Toi Matarau - Māoriland's permanent modern Māori art exhibition.

Toi Matarau is a high-end Māori retail art gallery. It is based at the Māoriland Hub and will be online from November 2019. Within the broader tribal support of Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki for Māoriland's many activities, The exhibition showcases both traditional and contemporary Māori artwork. These are authentic taonga that speak of the artist's spirit, and are locally sourced by Kaitiaki Toi, Maakarita Paku.

Toi Matarau is a space to inspire and be inspired, it is open Tuesday - Thursday 10 am - 4 pm or by appointment.

Among the many activities generated by the Hub, the Festival and the Arts; there is

a deep focus on rangatahi development. We have a strategic range of training programmes that equip our youth to be adept storytellers in the digital era. Our rangatahi operate at the local and interational level with marked success.

For 91 years, Edhouses was a beloved department store in Ōtaki village. Pat Edhouse told us that in its day the store

was beloved by the community and sold "everything from a pin to an anchor". That type of family based retail service has long gone. However, the tradition of serving the community still remains. We may not have a pin or an anchor in stock anymore, but we do have a huge range of stories that can change your world. Nau mai, piki mai. Mauriora ki a tātou.



Coco Solid presents a rangatahi workshop



Toi Matarau at the Māoriland Hub



Parekawa Finlay and Ari Leason perform at the Māoriland Hub



Māori Sidesteps enchant the audience at the Māoriland Hub

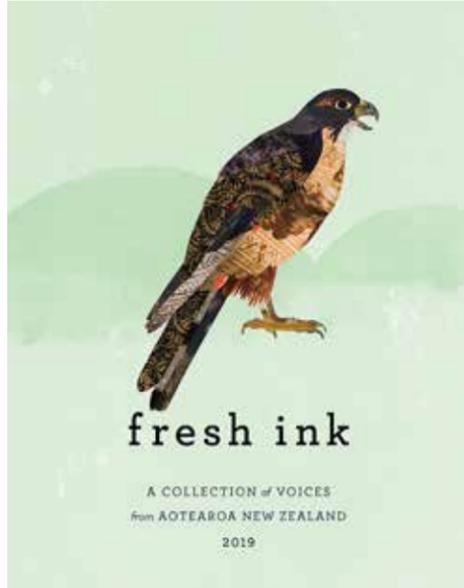


ABC - Authors Book Corner

Ōtaki Mail Author Features in Anthology

Vivienne Bailey who has written for the Ōtaki Mail for decades as our gardening, arts and Te Horo columnist is one of the New Zealand writers featured in a recently released anthology. Vivienne is a freelance journalist who has been shortlisted in several national short story competitions and broadcasts regularly with Coast Access Radio.

'Fresh Ink 2019', includes exciting new works from a diverse group of poets,



writers and artists. There is a variety of contributions including poetry, novel extracts, short stories and artwork.

It includes New Zealand writing at its best, exhibiting new stories and poetry from respected established writers as well as some lively 'fresh ink' from previously unpublished authors.

Published by Cloud Ink Press it is available now from David Bateman PO Box 100-242 North Shore Auckland.



The Wild Card by Renée

When we finished the poetry course we said to Renée – 'Will you take another one?' 'No,' she said, 'not right now, but I've always wanted to teach a workshop on writing a crime novel.'

And that's how 'Breaking and Entering: How to write a crime novel' began.

Renée went home, wrote the ten-week course over January 2018 and on the first Friday in February we began. It was then, she says, she realised she needed to do the work along with the students. She needed to make sure the work she set was do-able. So she wrote the ten pages of homework per week along with us. By the end of the course she had a first draft of 100 pages. Being a child of the Depression, she thought, 'Waste not, want not,' and began a second draft. She asked a friend in publishing if she would give the manuscript a professional read. She would pay the going rate. The friend said, 'Send it. We're considering manuscripts now.'

It wasn't quite finished, but she sent it anyway and ten days later she got an email saying, 'We'd be delighted to publish.' Renée finished another draft, did some rewriting, sent it off, and *The Wild Card* was on its way.

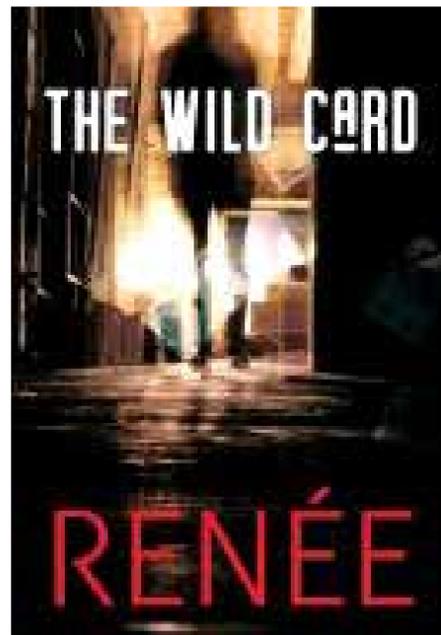
It was with delight that I picked up my copy this week to read the full work. As a participant of the workshop I'd heard bits and pieces along the way but never the full story. Renée has created a new genre – *Cosy Noir* – a murder told with humour.

Ruby Palmer has been dealt a rough hand. She was left in a kete at the back door of the Porohiwi Home for Children when she was a baby, and then at seven she discovered that Betty – who stopped the bad stuff happening to Ruby at the Home – has drowned. Now in her thirties, Ruby suspects her friend was murdered – her only lead is a notebook that uses the symbols on playing cards to tell a story she can't understand, but there are other clues too: the man in the balaclava who attacks her when she starts to investigate, and, break-ins at the local theatre where Ruby is playing Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. As Ruby goes deeper into the mystery of Betty's death, she starts to find answers to questions about herself that she hadn't dared ask before. To discover the truth, she needs to find the wild card, and fast.

The story is an amalgam of theatre, playing cards, small town New Zealand, humour, mystery and murder. Renée's skill as a playwright is obvious in the natty chatty dialogue as is her ability in pulling all the threads together. It's a hard ask to write about the abuse of children in state care and this is a multileveled work of beautiful prose.

But who are Heart, Spade, Diamond and Club and what are they trying to hide?

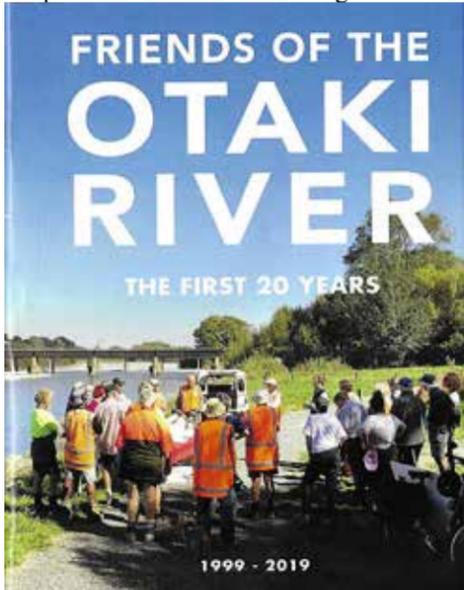
Published by Cuba Press. Copies \$35 available from Renée 021 261 3254 or good bookshops.



The Friends of the Ōtaki River

After twenty years of vigilance, work, planting and care the Friends of the Ōtaki River (FOTOR) have published their 'memoires'.

This nice little book under the chairmanship of Max Lutz recounts the delightful trip from the early days when the management of the river changed from the North to come under the auspices of the Greater Wellington



Regional Council.

Formed in 1999 with Don Hunn as its first chair this group has remained vigilant and steadfast in its duty of care; to the river and its boundaries, to the environment and to the people of Ōtaki, ensuring that the river is in good heart for all of us to enjoy.

The book opens with a delightful poem by Barbara Simons, and traverses the Ōtaki Floodplain Management Plan, the community effort in planting thousands of trees, along with the advocacy, single minded and determined to make our river the best.

There are honourable mentions of all the players who have been involved in the past two decades, photos of the work that's been done and the beauty of the final product – a healthy clean river where we all can walk, fish and play.

What a great legacy FOTOR has left us. Their hard work and the sponsorship of many have ensured our grandchildren will have a rich playground in the future.

Contact Trevor Wylie for a copy; geminiservices@xtra.co.nz

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Ōtaki's Artel Gallery and Store'

BY VIVIENNE BAILEY

Moving from the quiet confines of Waikanae's Mahara Place to the truck-driven bustle of the State Highway has been a bonus for artist, and Artel Gallery and Store art curator, Maude Heath.

"The time was right to move. We've always had a loyal following, and many of our clients visit us here in Ōtaki. We are just as busy, and of course, we now have passing traffic."

Housed in Waikanae for the past four years, Artel Gallery and Store provides an outlet for New Zealand (particularly those in the Kapiti community) artists to showcase their work, and the store aspect means visitors can purchase the work of local artisans.

Situated in what was the Rembrandt Menswear shop, the store is slightly larger (a different layout) than her previous site.

"Room for art is definitely a good thing," says Maude. "I feel I can grow Artel in Ōtaki, make it more of a destination."

Artel was established ten years ago as a collective, when Maude recognised a need for an outlet for Kapiti's rich and diverse artistic community (eighty percent of Artel artwork is from Kapiti-based artists).

Through various changes, it is now owned and operated solely by Maude with help from fellow artist, Ronda Thompson.

"Ronda is a fantastic artist – and she's also a voluntary accountant," Maude adds, laughing.

She is assisted three days a week by Chrissy Wikaira, who uses her eye for detail to hang, or display, the prodigious amount of artworks and exhibits coming into the gallery.

Although much of the artwork is sourced online (both new and established artists), Maude says she often has artists coming into the shop with their work, "on average around one or two a day."

Artwork ranges from the traditional, well-known work of Ōtaki-based Ernest Papps, featuring New Zealand landscapes, to the evocative, digital creations of tattoo artist, Lorna Tawhiti who uses her graphic and computer art background to produce works focused on fine line and feminine detail, and the laser-cut products of Wellington-based Abstract Designs (kit-sets and wall art).

Jewellery and pounamu are popular choices Maude tells me, as well as the handmade wooden toys and soaps, and the distinctive, iconic work of Sue Lund

and her life-sized moulded animals (multi-layered with lacquered partitions of bright colour).

Maude doesn't have a lot of time for painting these days. Her current passion though is bookbinding, "I was trained twelve years by a French bookbinder in Sydney." Using the antique machine she sourced from Wellington, and recycled

paper and leather (naturally tanned) from the Stratford-based producer of possum products, Envirofur, Maude creates softly-bound books written and/or illustrated by local artists and authors. They are beautiful.

For more information check out www.artelgallery.com or contact artelnz@gmail.com



Maude protectively herds Sue Lund's picturesque sheep



Maude surrounded by arts of all shapes and sizes in her Artel gallery



Kit-sets from 'Abstract Designs,' Wellington

Ōtaki's "Grow your own" stall celebrates 10 years

BY BELINDA MCLEAN

Ōtaki's Thursday stall for buying and selling local garden produce reopens on November 7. The following Thursday will be a 10th year celebration, with free birthday cake for all comers.

"With several new volunteers we're a stronger group than ever," said spokesperson Bernadine Bloemgarten.

"We're good cooks as well, so we'll be baking birthday cakes that feature produce from our own gardens and sharing them with our customers.

"The more of us that grow our own food, the better for the planet. We have the joy and health benefits of walking out the back door to pick and eat a lemon, a cabbage or dig a few carrots.

"We can also claim that we're stamping on the toes of that petrochemical-burning monster, the modern food industry. Home gardening and cooking save energy all along the food-industry chain, from agricultural machinery, fertilizers and pesticides to transport, storage and supermarkets.

"Home-gardeners can cut out a huge amount of waste from a second monster, the plastic-generating horticultural-industry, through seed-saving, growing from cuttings, making our own compost and liquid fertilizer and re-using or making our own bags and containers," she said.

"A plentiful garden may also help people move from the traditional meat and three veg to a plate that features four or five different vegetables and a just a bit of meat, sometimes. Plant-based meals and eating patterns are better for health and a more economical use of agricultural land, moving away from intensive animal farming and its pollution of rivers and lakes."

The Ōtaki Seasonal Surplus Stall, an initiative of Transition Town Ōtaki, runs from November through to May. The group's mission is to encourage local communities to become more self-sufficient and sustainable. The stall is sited in Main Street on the green area near the library. From 10.30 until 11am it is open to buy fruit, vegetables and eggs from local gardeners, which it sells to all comers from 11am to 12pm or until sold out.

"We buy the produce at 80% of the price it will be sold at. The other 20% goes to cover expenses in setting up and running the stall. Any excess produce, or profit over and above expenses, goes to local community groups like the Health Shuttle, the Food Bank and Birthright," said Bernadine.

The stall offers free bags home-made from recycled fabric, but people are encouraged to bring their own bags as well. New volunteers are always welcome, the work



A strong group of volunteers runs the Seasonal Surplus Stall and meets regularly to share produce and catch up on local gardening matters

involves a two hour duty once a month and offers the benefit of regular potluck dinner meetings and a chance to catch up on local gardening matters.

Contacts:
Bernadine Bloemgarten 0204 131 5780
Belinda McLean 021 262 9347

Harry Hall the Donkey man

BY MARGARET ANDREWS

Harry Hall, known to many as the “donkey man,” lived life as he believed – waste nothing. If he could get there by bicycle he cycled, whether it was just around Ōtaki or trips around parts of both the North and South Islands.

A qualified sheet metal worker, he worked in his trade around New Zealand and while travelling in Australia, England and Europe. While at college, his first job was delivering the Evening Post around Berhampore before selling the Dominion in Wellington Hospital. He drove trucks and did a variety of farm work from milking cows to picking apples. But it was the 26 years he spent at the former Ōtaki Children’s Health Camp which he loved the most.

In the early 1980’s Harry and his wife Gail purchased a section at Ōtaki Beach, through the former Ōtaki Borough Council’s ballot system, and had their home built there. In 1983 Harry got a job as groundsman at the Camp and to his delight he only had to step over the back fence, and he was at work. “One foot at home and one at work,” he was heard to say. He became caretaker in 1999 when Lionel Hunt retired. Harry loved the work and had a great rapport with the children who came to camp. He built a flying fox, tree swings and as a menagerie grew, built pens and housing for the numerous sheep and chooks.

Then in 1988 along came Pepe the donkey. Harry built him a small cart which could carry an adult and two children and a horse float was purchased to take him to events.



Harry, Pepe and canine friends

Life with three-year-old Pepe changed a lot of things for Harry. Wherever they went people wanted to stop them, talk and pat Pepe or have a ride on his back.

“We’d go for a walk along the beach and he would be taking kids for rides up and down, while I stood and waited,” Gail chuckled. At an event at Government House in Wellington, the then Governor General Cath Tizard took a ride in Pepe’s cart. Harry and Pepe were great mates. Pepe died at about 30 years old and Harry retired late 2009.

Harry developed asthma at an early age and got into cycling after his uncle gave him an old bike. Asthma or not he always kept very active. With friends, Harry and Gail tramped the Tararuas, and walked most of the major New Zealand tracks. He had been into distance cycling for some time, completing the Round Lake Taupo race six times. He rode around Mount Egmont/Taranaki “that was hard” he said at the finish. He was 60 when he biked to Te Anau before joining friend to tramp Milford Track. At 65, he biked to Dunedin, then to Greymouth over Haast Pass, “also hard”. Another time a group rode a circuit from Picton to Molesworth Station and back - only 500 kilometres and another ride from Picton to Westport through the Buller Gorge.

“The best vehicle I ever owned” he said after buying his ebike in 2015. He cycled 11,000 km in three years. Such was his enthusiasm Gail and their three sons all purchased ebikes and joined him on some rides.

Harry also enjoyed canoeing, either around Ōtaki beach or the Ōtaki River and he twice canoed the Whanganui River, once with friends and the other with a group of fathers and sons.

And in his spare time he spent 35 years with the Ōtaki Scout Group - on the committee, and many years as chairman maintaining the Keruru Scout Lodge and went on Scout trips and camps.

After Harry retired from the Health Camp, he joined the Friends of the Ōtaki River group. He cycled to their nursery every Wednesday morning and to the planting days.



Harry Hall’s mate Roger on his ebike takes his casket, along with family members .

“Harry was a very, very active person and a very staunch member,” Fotor president Max Lutz said. “He always had a joke to tell and raised the morale of members,” Harry was responsible for organising a Family Planting Day at Chrystalls Bend. This site is now known as Harry’s Hill in acknowledgment of his work there.

Harry’s friend and cycling partner, Roger Bloxham, shared many rides together, out three times a week. A favourite ride was up from the beach up Rahui Road and to the top of Ringawhata Hill in time for breakfast as the sun came up. Others included up Ōtaki Gorge and numerous destinations around the wider Ōtaki region. Together they began building the trolley Harry would need for his final ride to Ōtaki Cemetery. They had completed the wheelbase together using recycled wheels and timber, but completing the base became Roger’s task when Harry became too ill in his last weeks.

Harry Hall was 78 years old, a great family man - husband, father of three sons, grandfather to many, the “Donkey Man”, cyclist, trumper, recycler extraordinaire. He lived his life to his belief, “no extravagance, no waste - everything can be used again” right to his final journey when his (flat pack) casket



photograph courtesy Oliver Parrant

was carried on a trolley secured with recycled bike inner tubes and drawn behind Roger’s e-cycle.

Rain or Shine... We Ride!

BY SARA VELASQUEZ

On October 1st 2019, Energise Ōtaki, Pedal Ready, and Bike Greater Welly had a Bike Rodeo at the Ōtaki Bike Space.

There was an amazing group of kids and adults keen to support this inaugural community event, with an extra bonus of whānau from Ōtaki Primary School fundraising with delicious kai for the dedicated riders.

Pedal Ready offers bike skills training throughout the Wellington region, and offered bikers new obstacles to try. They were happy to see the children enthusiastically and safely riding with their helmets. There were even a number of kids who rode throughout the 3 hour event, rain and shine.

Energise Ōtaki was able to re-home 10 bikes to both kids and adults. There was a wonderful moment where Rosie, dressed in pink came to the event with her family, and across the pavement there was a bike also dressed in pink – just waiting to be chosen by her! Luckily it was meant to be, and the two were happily united.

What is the Ōtaki Bike Space?

The Ōtaki Bike Space is the Bike Library in Ōtaki. Energise Ōtaki has a container that has a number of donated bikes which are available to borrow or buy. As children grow and their needs change, they can also swap their bike for a larger one.

These bikes can be used to promote

healthy living, social inclusion and to have fun!

Activities might involve guided rides in the community, a basic bike skills course or maintenance workshop, or simply the freedom to ride on a safe route with family and friends.

Why is access to Bikes important?

Putting children on bikes can make a huge difference for families. Biking used to be a “rite of passage”, but now kids often get driven– wouldn’t it be great to see everyone biking to school in the morning, or parents being able to give up their taxi service?

During major events like Māoriland or the Kite Festival, it would be wonderful if our visitors took a bike for a day to ride down to the beach or to get from one place to another. Or just imagine where we can go once the cycleway is finished!

The Ōtaki Bike Space means that everyone in the community has access to a bike and can learn about cycle maintenance, repair, and also riding safety.

How can I help?

We are always grateful for koha, which helps us buy new materials for the bike refurbishments.

All the bikes have been donated either by our community or the Paekākāriki Bike Library. Some bikes are from garages and sheds and, even, under hedges. Bikes beyond repair are stripped for parts.

We rely on volunteers who have some

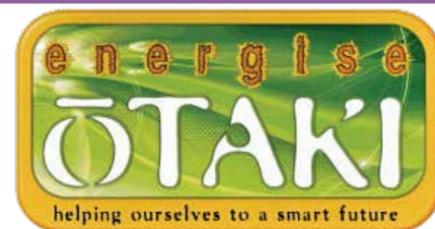
expertise about how to fix bikes, or are keen to learn. If you know anyone who can help repair bikes or teach how to maintain bikes, we would appreciate hearing from you. If you know someone who would like to create community events, you can call Sara on 027 621 8855.

How to find out more?

The Ōtaki Bike Space is currently run by Energise Ōtaki, out of a container located at St. Peter Chanel School, 2 Convent Road, Ōtaki. To keep updated about future Ōtaki Bike Space events, you can sign up to Energise Ōtaki’s newsletters by going to <https://energise.otaki.net.nz/newsletter/> or in the Ōtaki Mail.



Bex with her bike



QUICK STATS

Ever wondered what proportion of students ride a bike to your school? Or how this proportion compares to schools around New Zealand?

In Aotearoa in 1990: 12% of journeys to primary and intermediate schools were by bike 19% of journeys to high school were by bike

In Aotearoa in 2014: 2% of journeys to primary and intermediate school were by bike 3% of journeys to high school students were by bike

In Ōtaki in 2019:* 6-8% of journeys to the primary schools, college, and kuras were by bike

(*random day in October checking the bikes at the bike racks at the schools divided by the enrolment listed on ERO)

What does this mean:

0%–5% Low - That’s not many students biking to school. Why might this be?

6%-10% Making progress – that’s a fair amount of students who bike!

11%–15% Very Good – your school is developing a culture of biking!

16%-20% Excellent!

Real Estate update: New store a sign of faith in Ōtaki

BY FRANK NEILL

Hunting & Fishing’s new store, being built next door to their current shop, “is a sign of our faith in the Ōtaki community,” says the store’s co-owner Mark Matthews.

Once the new highway and bypass is completed “we anticipate that Ōtaki will be a nicer place to stop and shop”. In peak times now, the heavy traffic dissuades people from stopping. That will soon change, however, and the new bypass will offer an easy slide on-off to and from Ōtaki.

“Hopefully the local council will play their part with off ramp signage outlining the offerings,” Mr Matthews says.

Once people are in the township, hopefully the ample parking behind the shops and by the station will also be highlighted.

It will be “great for people to park and enjoy the cafes and the variety of stores”. Hunting & Fishing’s new Ōtaki store “is probably one of the bigger risks we have taken,” Mr Matthews says.

“We are quite confident that it is definitely going to up the sales.”

The new building will provide Hunting & Fishing double the retail space, as well as giving the store office and storage facilities.

“The Hunting & Fishing store offerings are continually expanding, not only in the traditional fishing and hunting categories, but in lifestyle clothing,” Mr Matthews says. In addition, full camping options of equipment and tents are available, including family tents and the tables and chairs that go along with them.

When the Ōtaki Mail went to print, construction was on target to meet a finishing date of mid February.

Fitting out the new store will follow and there will be a formal opening once the store is ready to begin selling. Mr Matthews predicts that the opening will be some time in March next year.

Meanwhile, the State Highway 1-Arthur Street shopping area currently provides a good number of opportunities for businesses or prospective business owners to follow Hunting & Fishing’s lead and make an investment in Ōtaki. A series of premises are available for rent.

The Jubilee Hotel site in Waerenga Road (which currently houses Body & Soul Gym) is about to be demolished, pending a substantial housing development next year.

Lloyd Cundy Of Jubilee Hotel Developments Ltd is awaiting resource consent from Kāpiti Coast District Council, and plans “14 affordable two-bedroom homes” on the site. The likely start time is scheduled for the second quarter of 2020.

The Caltex site was advertised, seeking a lead tenant for a restaurant complex including a number of smaller retail outlets. The owners are considering a number of options, and hope to make an announcement early next year.



An artist's impression of Hunting & Fishing's new Ōtaki store.



Hunting & Fishing's new building is taking shape

Body & Soul Fitness Ōtakiis moving

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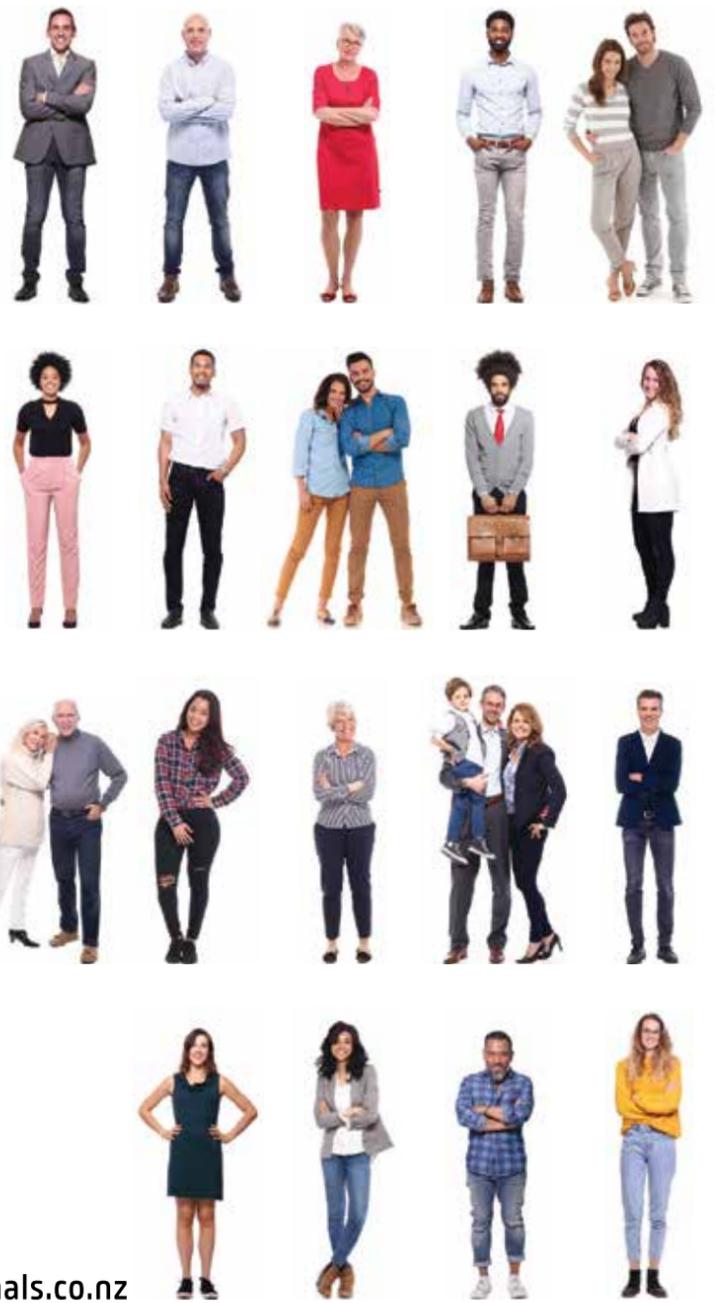
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Funeral Services a big Winner in Business Awards

In its citation the judges of the Electra Business awards said of the Kāpiti Funeral Home, “In an extremely competitive evening, Kāpiti Coast Funeral Home received the Highly Commended Award, the Medium Business Excellence Award and shared the “Give Where You Live” Achievement Award with New World Ōtaki. The judges noted the business is well-organised and places customer experience at the heart of everything it does. “Its values are openly on display and genuinely espoused by all involved in the business. Staff are offered support and engagement on multiple levels and there is a strong sense of belonging.”

Andrew Malcolm’s comment at these honours was ‘well I wasn’t expecting that.’

It was after a talk to the Kāpiti Business breakfast that he was persuaded to put in his application for the awards. After eighteen hours of form filling, he almost wished he hadn’t. The process that followed made the work worthwhile with the assessors who visited, spending less time than they normally would inferring that most of their questions had been well answered in the application.

He is most proud of the “Give Where You Live” award as it exemplifies his philosophy. He offers a complete service which includes the all-important after-

care bereavement support.

Flexibility is his mantra. There is nothing he can’t offer, from personally designed services, catering service, in-house printing, together with their own crematorium, as well as all other services such as celebrants, flowers, notices, service sheets, streaming, and so the list goes on.

“This is a team award,” he says. “I couldn’t be successful without the total commitment and exceptional professionalism from all the team at Kāpiti Coast Funeral Home.”

The Kāpiti Coast Funeral Home offers its service to all the district of Kāpiti including Ōtaki.

Local philatelist honoured

John Mowbray was inducted into the Kapiti Horowhenua Business Hall of Fame at the recent Electra Business Awards.

Mowbray Collectibles in Ōtaki is a world-recognised philatelic dealer, with a mailing list of over 5,000 stamp collectors world-wide.

Mowbrays employ 15 local staff.



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 Back Row - Graham Orchard, Tracey Orchard.



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Concert in Ōtaki

Music by Sibelius, Grieg, Canteloube and Borodin will feature in a concert to be presented by the Kapiti Concert Orchestra in the Ōtaki Memorial Hall with



Conductor, Luka Venter and soprano soloist, Alexandra Gandionco, on Saturday, 23 November at 3 pm.



Auvergne including the most well-known - Bailèro. These songs reflect Canteloube's love for the Auvergne region in France where he grew up, its language, people, their music and dance.

The Concert will open with a performance of En Saga (a Fairytale) by Jean Sibelius. This work has been described as a "masterpiece of astonishing power and originality". Unusually for a tone poem, it tells no story, however Sibelius described it as "an expression of a state of mind".

Grieg's Lyric Suite is based on four of the six piano pieces from Book V of his Lyric Pieces Op 54 - Shepherd Boy, Norwegian Rustic March, Notturmo and March of the Trolls. Three were originally orchestrated by Anton Seidl but later Grieg made his own transcriptions as he found Seidl's arrangements were rather too "heavy-handed" and also included his own orchestration of the Shepherd Boy for strings and harp.

The exhilarating melodies and rhythms of Borodin's exotic Polovstian Dances will round out an afternoon of great music.

Luka has completed a Bachelor of Music in Classical Performance (Vocal, Composition and Conducting) at the New Zealand School of Music. He lists as a highlight of his career to date a professional development tour he made to Europe in 2018 to enable him to attend masterclasses in conducting and to shadow and observe many renowned conductors. As a composer he won the NZSO Todd Corporation Young Composer Award in 2018 and was a finalist in this year's event.

Alexandra Gandionco is also graduate of the NZSM. She sings with the Freemason's NZ Opera Chorus, was a finalist in Dame Malvina Major Foundation Wellington Aria Competition in 2017 and 2018 and is an Alumnus of the NZ Opera School in Wanganui. She has performed a number of soprano roles with NZSM, Eternity Opera, Bach Musica and with NZ Opera in Bach's Coffee Cantata.

Alexandra will present a selection of Joseph Canteloube's Songs of the

Kāpiti Concert Orchestra

Conductor: Luka Venter
 Leader: Mary Taylor
 Soprano Solo: Alexandra Gandionco

Borodin

Saturday 23 November

Otaki Memorial Hall

Sibelius

3.00pm

Grieg

Canteloube

Tickets from:

kapitico@gmail.com

Otaki Vets, Otaki

Bookshelf, Waikanae

Moby Dickens, Paraparaumu Beach

The Family Music Store, Paraparaumu

Adults \$25 pre-concert

\$30 at the door

Students \$10

Under 12s Free

What's ON

- **Kāpiti Arts' Trail** Nov 2/3 and 9/10, 10-5pm: 100+ artists Free entry. See kapiticoast.govt.nz/artstrail/ for Kāpiti Arts Guide
- **Te Horo County Garden Tour** 16 and 17 Nov see p4
- **Kapiti Concert Orchestra** 23rd Nov at 3pm Ōtaki Memorial hall see p13
- **St. Vincent de Paul Society Free Pop-Up Shop** Ōtaki Sat 16 Nov 9.30am – 12.00 Memorial Hall - women's, men's and children's clothing, shoes and toys.
- **Otaki Lions free diabetes testing** on 15 November outside New World
- **Ōtaki P-Pull** Patuate Taniwha Kino Hikoi. Sun 10 Nov 11-2 Hadfield Hall
- **Ruth Pretty's Christmas Vintage Market Day** Sunday 3 November
- **Te Horo School Ag Night** Wed 13 Nov
- **Te Horo School traditional Christmas** celebration on Fri, 13 Dec, 5 pm to 7 pm
- **Rose Garden Party Fundraiser** Sat 23 Nov 2 pm. 21 Atkinson Avenue, Otaki Beach. Refreshments \$20. Contact 06 364-6314. Guest speaker: Labour Hon Grant Robertson Min of Finance
- **Subway Ōtaki World Sandwich Day** Fri 1 Nov: fundraising event everyone who visits Subway Ōtaki on the day and purchases a sub, wrap, or salad will get another one free and Subway will donate a meal through KiwiHarvest to someone who needs it.
- **Ōtaki Pottery Club** Raku day see below
- **Racing** Thursday 7 November see p20
- **Otaki Library** Kokedama Workshop 22 Nov 10.30-12 see p25
- **Fireworks** Haruatai Park Nov 8th 6.30
- **RSA Armistice Day** Sunday 10 November 11am War Memorial, Main street

Regular Events

- **Ōtaki Women's Community Club market.** SH1 every Sunday 9– 3
- **Waitohu Dune Care Group** Mondays, north Ōtaki Beach 9-11
- **Te Horo Market** Te Horo Hall, first Sunday of the month. 10am – 12.30
- **The Hope Cafe** 19 Aotaki St Thurs 3-5 Creative workshops for the non- arty
- **Te Horo-Ōtaki Ukulele group,** te Horo Hall. First and third Friday 10:30-12 From beginners to experienced, all welcome. 364 3335. deeandtim@gmail.com
- **Ōtaki Library Books and Bickies** 2nd Fri of the month 10.30-11.30
- **Budget Advice Service.** Citizen's Advice Bureau Ōtaki. Trained Financial Mentors. 06 364 8664 or 0800 367222, or call into 65A Main Street see p24

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Gardening with

Garden tasks for November

Flower garden

Mulch your perennials, trees and shrubs with compost, bark or peat to conserve soil moisture.
 Pick off rhododendron seed pods if the weather is dry.
 All chrysanthemums and dahlias can now be planted – stake existing plants.
 Tie up herbaceous perennials.
 Plant pond plants, including water lilies.
 Liquid feed all flowering annuals and perennials.
 Feed flowering shrubs with a side dressing of general fertiliser.
 Prune flowering shrubs as soon as blooming is over – lilacs, philadelphus, shrubby spireas and deutzias.
 Continue planting new roses using plenty of compost.
 Plant hibiscus plants for a tropical look in your garden.
 Prune back excess shoots on wisteria after flowering.
 Keep sweet peas and roses well watered. Feed with liquid manure and remove faded flowers.
 Sow seeds of flowering annuals directly into the ground: alyssum, Californian poppy, marigolds, cosmos, nasturtium, poppy and sunflowers.
 Sow in trays for transplanting later: carnations, dahlia, livingstone daisy, petunia, salvia, gerberas, celosia, phlox and geranium.

Plant summer flowering annual seedlings: cosmos, petunias, lobelia, impatiens, marigolds, phlox, verbena, larkspur, alyssum, portulaca - and many more.

Fruit and vegetable garden

Plant a crop of seed potatoes into your garden or in a large tub or planter bag.

All vegetables will benefit from a side dressing of blood and bone or general garden fertiliser.

Tomatoes are growing rapidly – they'll need regular deep watering and lots of feeding. Don't forget to grow basil beside your plants (it will improve their flavour).

Dust cabbages and cauliflowers with derris dust to prevent the dreaded white butterfly caterpillar.

Now's the time to plant out your favourite summer veggies, such as tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, sweet corn, spring onions, watermelon and celery.

Sow seeds directly into the garden: pumpkin, courgettes, parsnip, radish and sweet corn.

Sow in trays for transplanting later: lettuce, cabbage, capsicum, eggplant, leeks and spring onions (for continuous harvesting sow at two to three weekly intervals).

Hang codlin moth traps in apple trees to trap moths and prevent larvae entering fruit.

Feed your citrus with citrus fertiliser, and all other fruit trees with general fertiliser.

Lightly prune passionfruit.

Lawns

For a lush green lawn apply lawn fertiliser when rain is due or water in with a sprinkler.

To maintain a lawn in dry weather, water with a sprinkler and don't cut too short.

Second thoughts

Divide and re-pot cymbidium orchids (though they're happy crowding up together for quite some time).

Hoe and hand weed as often as possible – weed control is essential this month.



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Delightful dietes: evergreen stars

Perennial dietes are sometimes mistaken for irises. But although there is a resemblance (and they do belong to the iris family) dietes have their own special merits, and constantly out-perform elegant garden irises when it comes to prolonged flowering display.

These most worthwhile garden plants will grow right down to the sea, or inland, and in sun or semi-shade (and they're one of the few ornamental plants that will grow in the dryness of an old conifer hedge).

Generally, they are incredibly tough, robust customers (very easy-care), yet contained and orderly, growing in handsome, small, flax-like clumps.

The following species originate from South Africa (the home of all dietes but one) and are easily propagated by dividing their sturdy rhizomes (autumn is a good time to do this). They can also be grown from seed.

Often called the Spanish or the yellow wild iris, *D. bicolor* has a charming flower, flat and creamy-lemon with distinct brown blotches radiating from orange spots on its three outer petals.

Individual blooms appear from spring to

autumn, and although lasting only a day or so, the flowering is generous. The pale-green, grass-like leaves reach about 90cm in height.

D. grandiflora is sometimes known as the wild iris. It grows quickly and easily, the narrow, dark-green leaves reaching around a metre (being evergreen the plant is always attractive). The plant produces wide, white iris-like flowers marked with mauve and orange-yellow. The blooms last for several days in spring and autumn (in true testimony to their toughness, I've seen mass plantings of *D. grandiflora* flowering generously in a shopping area where they get some shelter and afternoon sun, but are in a cold, draughty corridor).

The preferred habitat for *D. iridioides* is in semi-shade under tall, open trees but it will tolerate



the Ōtaki Mail

BY VIVIENNE BAILEY
viv.bailey@xtra.co.nz

A bird-friendly garden

Feasting tui swooping from kowhai and cherry blossom, low flying kereru bashing around in your puriri, yep, it's springtime. Cheery companions when gardening, or out walking, these feathered spring visitors encourage a 'feel-good' optimism, and banish lingering remnants of winter gloom.

If you're designing a new garden, or redeveloping an old, try to create a setting where your avian friends will also be at home – it may double the pleasure you get from the garden.

To encourage birds into your garden supply food, water for drinking and bathing, and areas of shelter. Use a wide range of plants, and incorporate fruiting shrubs and trees to provide food throughout the season, as well as nesting sites and shelter. It's a good idea to plant mixed hedges, or shelter belts on a larger property, instead of single species hedges, to provide a variety of food sources and nest sites.

A corner planted in fruiting shrubs will give an area of cover for birds. Leaf litter should be left – it encourages insects, beetles, spiders, moths, wetas, earthworms, katydids and stick insects – delicacies for silvereye, greywarbler and fantail. Morepork and kingfisher also enjoy insects (as well as mice).

Daisies, achillea, monarda, bugbane, alliums, astrantia, sedum and many other flowers draw insects, and provide food for searching birds.

Most native plants are yummy for birds, but some are clearly bird-friendly. Corokias are great, their autumn berries provide food, and the tangled shape provides shelter and nesting sites. Wineberry (*Aristotelia serrata*) and kamahi (*Weinmannia racemosa*) are also good food sources. Ngaio (*Myoporum laetum*) is not only a useful shelter plant, but its summer-ripened fruit is a favourite with bellbirds and tui.

The flowers of kowhai (*Sophora tetraptera*), flax (*Phormium tenax*)

and rewarewa (*Knightia excelsa*) provide a feast for nectar-seeking birds, but avoid planting too close to the house as reflections on windows can confuse birds. A Department of Conservation report shows a number of kereru are killed every year trying to fly through panes of glass – a distressing way to die for



Kowhai in flower



Kaka beak



Corokia



Focus on growing okra

To bring a bright, exotic splash of colour to the garden and to the food on your table, try growing okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*). A native of Africa's Niger-Congo region, okra is a cousin to the hibiscus plant (both grow with a long main trunk, making them look tree-like in the garden), and has a sweet taste, somewhere between asparagus and aubergine. It is an important ingredient in the gumbo-style dishes of America's southern states, and also in India where it is known as bhindi and used in curries.

The quick-growing plant, commonly known as lady's finger, needs at least three months of warm to hot summer weather to grow well, and can reach 2m tall, with big, red-centred yellow flowers and heart-shaped leaves. The pointy green, edible seedpods vary from 7cm-25cm long and when cut exude a sticky, gummy juice, perfect as a thickening agent, hence its importance in Cajun gumbo (or stew).

Okra likes a warm, sheltered, sunny position and sweet (higher pH) soil with plenty of added manure and good compost.

Sow seed in individual pots like you would with tomatoes and capsicums – this should avoid root disturbance when planting out. Transplant seedlings when they're about 10cm high, spacing plants about half a metre

apart. Okra has fragile tap roots that don't like being moved so build a good amount of soil up the stem for support.

Regularly fertilise with blood and bone, especially when plants begin to flower, and mulch well with pea straw to help plant cope with high



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College Sports Awards

BY MARGARET ANDREWS

With thirteen Ōtaki College team sports, as well as a numerous individual and team sports played outside of the college curriculum, the annual Sports Awards evening saw almost 100 pupils receiving trophies, cups and certificates, for their achievements.

The guest speaker for the evening was Special Olympics athlete Jason Donovan, who spoke of being involved with the Special Olympics. Alpine skiing is his favourite though he does play golf and football too. He won three gold and three silver medals in his events at the 2004 National Winter Games in Wanaka. In 2005 won the College Sport Wellington Person with a Disability award. At the Winter Special Olympics in 2009, he won silver in his favourite event the slalom, while at the World Special Winter Olympics in Austria in 2017 he won another silver medal.

“Being in the Special Olympics gave me confidence in myself,” he told the full College hall. He now works in a lead role with the Special Olympics organisation and with groups and individuals around the wider region.

Three teams were nominated for the College Sport Wellington Awards for Top Code - Senior Boys Basketball, Junior Boys Basketball and Senior Girls Football. They took out the College Team of the Year awards for their codes.

Seven students received Ōtaki College Sporting Blues awards for individual successes both nationally and internationally.

Kaahurere Mackay won the junior swimming championship, was a regional rugby representative, won silver in the NZ Waka Ama Championships and was a



Ōtaki College Sports Awards recipients with guest speaker, Jason Donovan, centre third row, following the awards presentations.

gold medallist and runner-up at the Trans Tasman Outrigger Championships.

Stella Parks is a Black Belt Taekwondo exponent and a silver medallist at the NZ Taekwondo Championships.

Wrestler, Manawatoa Nakhla, won both gold and silver at the 2019 NZ National Secondary School Wrestling Championships.

Equestrian rider, Paris Karl-Fields, won bronze and the pony show hunter class Horse of the Year title, is a Manawatu West Coast equestrian representative and winner of the Hodder Family Trophy at the Bruce Forbes Horse Trials.

Swimmer Damien Doyle set six new records in the College swimming sports in 2019 and holds multiple individual and team regional placings and medals. As surf lifesaver he individual won silver medals and is NZ Title Holder in the 400metre swim event at the pool, a member of the All Stars A team, team silver medallist Under19 surf team and awards in the national championships. When not in the water he played for the college winning top boys' basketball team.

A top snooker player, Blane Watson is an Under 21 NZ Representative, played in the Oceania Championships and represented NZ in the Under 18 and

Under 21 teams at the IBSF Championships in China earlier this year.

Kaitlyn Freeman is another equestrian rider. She won placings in multiple awards at local and regional level, was winner of the Ferndale Trophy, rode in the Kihikihi International Horse Trial and won first place at the National Equestrian Sports where she also won the Junior Event Rider of the Year title.

Damien, Blane and Kaitlyn received nominations for the Top of Code in their individual fields at the College Sport Wellington Awards.

College Sports Person of the Year would be announced at the Senior prizegiving on October 31.

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Blues recipients: Ōtaki College Sports Blues athletes from left; Kahurere Mackay, Manawatoa Nakhla, Damien Doyle, Special Olympian and guest speaker Jason Donovan, Blane Watson, Kaitlyn Freeman and Paris Karl-Fields. absent Stella Park.

Halloween disco at Ōtaki Primary School

The Kia Manawanui Bi-lingual Pathway at Ōtaki Primary School held an awesome Halloween Disco Party on Friday 25th October! The event was for preschool and primary school aged

children and their whānau. The inaugural event was well attended by our town. Thanks so much to everyone for your support for our fundraiser! We hope to spook you next year!



Focus On Shelley Mitchell-Jenkins

By Tom Frewen

“Here comes the sun” goes the George Harrison hit on the Beatles 1969 album Abbey Road and for Shelly Mitchell-Jenkins, that’s “all right”.

Taking over from Neil McKay to chair the board of local electricity lines company Electra, Shelly plans to support the Company’s growth strategy started under my predecessor which has included supporting Energise Ōtaki’s project and working proactively with other solar developers.

“Electra is supporting Energise Ōtaki’s solar farm and is working proactively with other solar developers,” she told the Mail in her first interview since her election as the board’s chairwoman.

Electra’s core business is running the lines network that supplies electricity to some 45,000 homes and businesses in Kapiti and Horowhenua. The company’s headquarters are in Levin, just a couple of blocks from the office of Colbert Cooper where Shelly works as a chartered accountant.

“I grew up in Whanganui and attended Massey University in Palmerston North,” she says. “Then I worked as an auditor in the public sector, with Audit NZ and the Office of the Auditor General followed by three years living and teaching English in Japan. I moved to Levin in 1996 and bought into Colbert Cooper in 2001.”

Shelly is a Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCA), a distinction recognising service to the profession and community) and is also a Chartered Member of Institute of Directors and is a district councillor for the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants.

A director of Colbert Cooper Limited, Shelly was appointed a director of Electra

in 2014 and has chaired the board’s Risk and Audit Committee since 2016.

She is also chairs the Eastern and Central Community Trust and holds, or has held, board and trustee roles on several Horowhenua-based charitable trusts, including the Levin Charitable Trust, Horowhenua Scholarship Trust, Life to the Max and the Horowhenua Event Centre Trust, and on the region’s economic development agency.

The value of Shelly’s qualifications and experience for her new role were acknowledged on her appointment by Sharon Crosbie who chairs the Electra Trust, elected by the consumers to hold the shares in Electra Limited on their behalf and is responsible for appointing the directors of Electra Limited.

“Shelly will provide the Board with focused leadership and strong governance and is committed to the direction the business is heading in,” said Ms Crosbie.

That direction is set in Electra’s 10-year growth strategy which includes continued investment in the core network business identification of complementary acquisition and investment opportunities. Recent Investments have included a joint venture with Spark in Connect 8 and the continued investment in Electra Services which Shelly says is well positioned to become a major player in the aged care market with its technology.

“From the electricity network perspective, the company has continued to perform well above industry standards while customers enjoy New Zealand’s lowest average power bills. This has been further enhanced by a reduction in the price of lines services over the last year.

“The group’s healthy financial position

and strong shareholder equity has enabled Electra to delivered increased sales discounts every year, crediting \$9.1 million including GST to consumers via their electricity retailers in 2019,” she says.

“The importance of Electra to the region is a driver for me. Not many companies have the ability to positively or negatively impact every person within its region every day. Its performance matters to the success of each business and person in the region.

“I am looking forward to working with the two new directors, Stephen Armstrong and Scott Houston, alongside the remaining directors, Chris Dyhrberg, Alan McCauley and Mike Underhill, the chief executive Neil Simmonds, the trustees, and the senior leadership team as we implement the strategy.

“Steve has comprehensive experience in mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and other forms of business growth initiatives. He has been a senior executive in large commercial businesses with a focus on investment and growth. “Scott is entrepreneurial and community focused. He has a proven ability to turn ideas and thinking into serious applications and outcomes that offer sustainable value and contribution to business and society. He brings a lot of networks and connections that will add value to the business.”

Shelly paid tribute to her predecessor in the Electra board’s chair, Neil Mackay, who was due to retire in 2018 but was appointed by the Trust to stay on for an additional one-year

term.

“Neil’s extended term provided the leadership needed to get the company’s ambitious 10-year growth strategy up and running and to ensure, with the Trustees that the board had the right mix of skills to provide strong governance,” said trust chairwoman, Sharon Crosbie.

“As the company board’s chairman, Neil has provided strategic smarts during significant and positive transformation for the Electra Group and he will be missed.”



NEW WORLD ŌTAKI JUDGED ELECTRA BUSINESS OF THE YEAR FOR 2019



New World Ōtaki owners, Steven and Janine Cole want to thank the sponsors and judges of the 2019 Electra Business Awards for selecting their business for this Award.

At the same time we want to thank all our loyal customers, our amazing team of staff and our suppliers as well as the members of the Foodstuffs North Island team who supported us in the development of our business over the past two years.

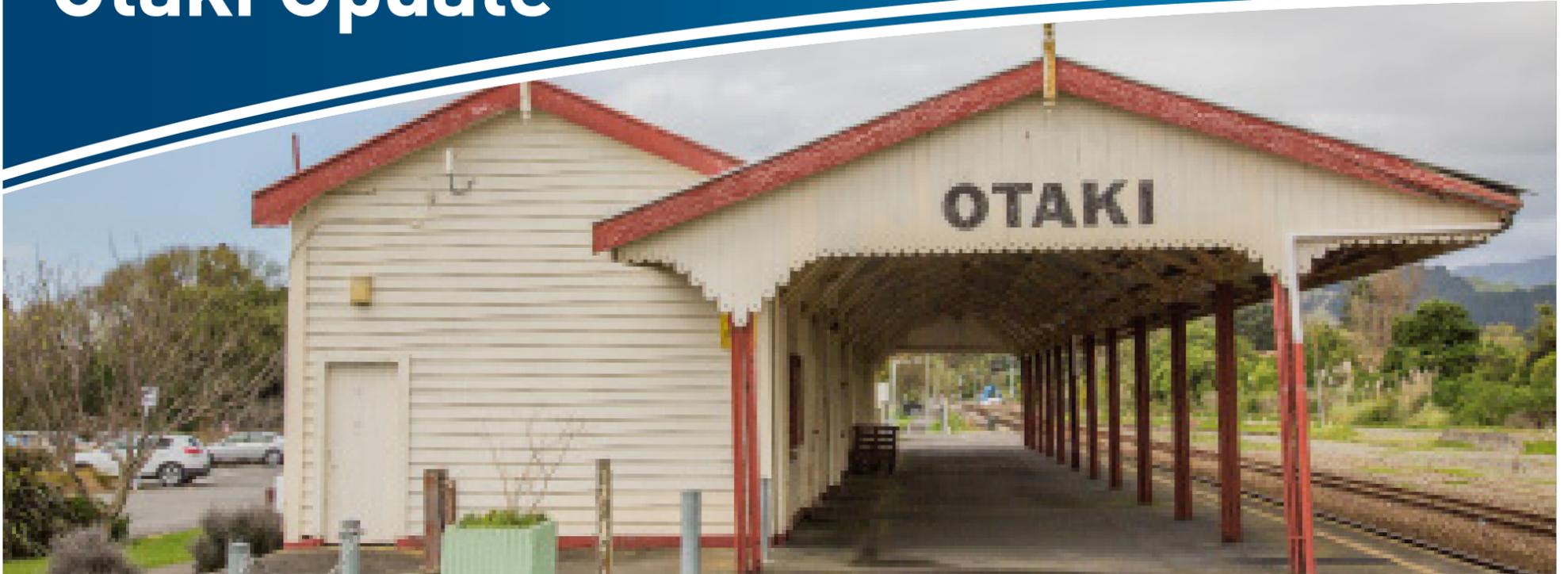
Thank you for that support and we promise we will continue to develop and improve our service and product offerings.

The winning citation for Electra Business of the Year 2019 said:

“The Judges were impressed with the highly focused management and leadership of New World Ōtaki since 2017. This has set up the business for the future, based on the development of internal talent in a way that increases business drive through worker engagement.

New World Ōtaki’s business growth can be attributed to genuine understanding of customer needs, and a commitment by employees to innovate about how these needs are met.”

Ōtaki Update



Final election results are in

Our new Council came into office last week - check out who your new Ōtaki elected members are.

Ōtaki Ward Councillor James Cootes returns for another three-year term and is joined by Ōtaki Community Board members Stephen Carkeek, Chris Papps, Marilyn Stevens and Shelly Warwick. Your elected representatives have spent the last week learning about Council meeting procedures and standing orders, some of the opportunities and challenges facing our District. Elected representatives will be officially sworn in this week.

► kapiticoast.govt.nz/elections2019



Kāpiti Arts Trail starts this weekend

Weekend one of the Kāpiti Arts Trail kicks off this weekend, and there's more than 20 artists based in the Ōtaki and Te Horo areas that are opening up their studios and art spaces for you to go and visit.

Check out our website to see the Kāpiti Coast Arts Trail Guide and plan your days on the Trail.

► kapiticoast.govt.nz/artstrail



Heritage Fund applications open now

The Heritage Fund helps landowners manage and protect heritage features including historic buildings, ecological sites, geological sites, significant trees or waahi tapu.

Whether it's protecting native bush, restoring a heritage building or undertaking educational research, your project may be eligible.

Applications close on 14 November. For more information, visit our website.

► kapiticoast.govt.nz/heritage-places



Summer at Haruātai Park

Summer is almost here and the Ōtaki Pool Splashpad at Haruātai Park is now open!

There's plenty of things to do at Haruātai Park including the pools, the Ōtaki Lions Pump Track, the playground and basketball hoop, and the sports fields and tennis courts.

To read more about Haruātai Park, or to find other parks in Ōtaki, visit the parks search on our website and filter the search to 'Ōtaki'.

► kapiticoast.govt.nz/parks

Chairs for te tamariki

BY ANNEMARIE VERBEEK

Recently the Ōtaki Menzshed was asked to restore 18 childrens' tamariki chairs for Te Kōhanga Reo Tū Roa.

Artie Morrow led the project with Ski Lewandoski and Geoff Railton in his team. There was much noise and dust as old paint and rust was removed.



“Good on you guys, for your hard work to help our tamariki have good gear for their place. The bright blue paint makes the chairs look very smart. This job is much appreciated, but not one of the guys would like to do it again in a hurry. Cheers to the chair-men!”



Waiaata with Nanny at Te Kōhanga Reo Tū Roa

Kapiti Olive oil scoops the awards again

Winners in NZ’s most prestigious competition for olive oil were announced at a formal dinner in Wellington recently. Kapiti Olive Oil from Te Horo, took out the 2019 Best in Show as well as Best in Class in the Commercial Medium Blend Class with its Kapiti Picual blend.

As well, Kapiti Olive Oil collected three silver medals for the remaining other olive oils it produces maintaining a 16 year, unbroken, medal-winning streak. Kapiti Olives is owned by David and Helen Walshaw and is the third time they have won a Supreme Award in a New Zealand olive oil competition over the past decade.

The judging panel, headed by Spaniard, Dr Agusti Romero, said of the winning Kapiti olive oil, “... a beautiful oil with herbaceous, salad leaf and artichoke aromas and taste. It has a smooth and

balanced lingering peppery finish creating a winning oil with great harmony”. Helen Walshaw says once again the Kapiti Coast has proved to be a highly suitable area for growing top class olive oil. Several boutique growers in the region were also included in the medals list from the Olives New Zealand awards.



Helen Walshaw with the Supreme Award

Fixing what is broken: busy Repair Café

Ōtaki staged its first Repair Café celebrating the 10th International Repair Cafe Day on the 19th October. “Repairing something instead of throwing it out and reviving the spirit of fixing something which is no longer working or is broken will help all of us, not only saving money but reducing waste” says organiser Hanna Wagner-Nicholls of Energise Ōtaki.

Ōtaki’s Memorial Hall, set up like a workshop, was buzzing with people bringing their broken or malfunctioning items in for repair by a handy team of 14 volunteer fixers. And satisfied people left with a big smile on their faces.

Remote garage door openers, clocks, radios, vacuum cleaners and toasters kept the electrical table busy, as the sewing station mended skirts, overalls and shorts, a woollen coat on which the moths had feasted on. For many sewing your own reusable sanitary pad proved to be very popular. The sharpening team of three volunteers fixed garden tools, many knives which had been living unused in drawers, and pocket knives. The bike station was busy looking after brakes, tyres and general check-ups. Children brought in their toys and left happy, many with a special wild animal brooch they made using a glue gun.

Ōtaki’s Play Centre looked after the wellbeing of everyone and as proof of how popular their food was, many people gave extra koha in appreciation, and now they can proceed with an update of their library collection.

“Often people don’t have the repair skills, they don’t have the tools or time to focus on the subject or think it’s difficult. It’s hard to find a repair guy, and if you find one he or she is expensive – that’s what people told me.”

“There are expert people in our community who do have repair skills, tools and time. Usually these people are so fond of tinkering that they’re more than happy to help. And repair is not that difficult. It’s often easy and it can be fun when you do it together with an expert, and when this expert is a volunteer then it’s also cheaper than buying a new product.”

Plans for the next Repair Café in February are already in the making, and even more volunteers are waiting to help again. Congratulations Energise Ōtaki on a brilliant idea, received enthusiastically by the community.



Dave Rumsey skilfully repairs an antique lamp at the Repair Café



Concentration fixing a Bluetooth speaker



Checking and repairing bikes



Kid’s corner at Ōtaki’s Repair Café



Seed swap at Ōtaki’s Repair Café



Busy sewing work stations at Ōtaki’s Repair Café





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Have you seen a Little Blue Penguin?

BY GLENDA ROBB

The Kapiti Coast Biodiversity Project has funding to investigate if any Little Blue Penguins (also known as Kororā) are coming ashore between Waikanae and Ōtaki. We know there are small colonies in Paekakariki and Pukerua Bay – and more on Mana and Kapiti Islands - but are there any further north?

Over the next couple of months we plan to leaflet all coastal properties in the area, asking people to tell us if they have seen any signs of penguins on or near their properties. We will also be walking the beaches at early morning low tides to look for their distinctive footprints as they make a beeline for the sea, and employ a specially trained very clever detector dog and his handler to sniff out where burrows might be.

The project coordinator says she would really appreciate any information locals have about sightings of penguins and people are also welcome to join us in our early morning footprint walks.

She can be contacted on: biodiversity.kapiti@gmail.com mobile 021 110 4277



Rose Garden Party Celebration on Saturday 23 November at 2 pm
Guest speaker: Hon Grant Robertson, MP for Wellington Central
In Di Buchan's garden, 21 Atkinson Avenue, Ōtaki Beach
Refreshments provided
Tickets \$20. Contact Marion, 06 364-6314
Fund raiser for Ōtaki Branch, NZ Labour Party

KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL
MEETINGS IN November 2019

Thursday	7 November	Public Forum	9.30 am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday	7 November	Council meeting	10.00 am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu

Attendance at Meetings

- Cancellation** - Meetings are sometimes cancelled for a variety of reasons. To confirm whether a meeting is on, please ring the Democracy Services Manager on (04) 296 4700 or toll free on 0800 486 486.
- Venue** - Please note that all meetings will be held in the Council Chambers, Civic Administration Building, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu, unless otherwise specified.
- Public Forum** - a 25-minute session will be held before every Council and major committee meeting (9.30 am – 9.55 am) in which you can speak on any topic. Bookings are essential. Please book ahead with the Democracy Services Advisor – online booking form can be found on website.
- Public Speaking Time** - Under Council's Standing Orders (Appendix I) a period will be provided after the start of each meeting for Public Speaking Time to allow for oral submissions relating to agenda items, and at the end of meeting for other items not on the agenda. If you wish to address the Council or its Committees during Public Speaking Time **please book ahead** with the Democracy Services Advisor and you will be given an approximate timeslot. People who book ahead for Public Speaking will be given precedence over those who do not.
- Live-streaming**: Council and Standing Committee meetings are live-streamed.
- Agendas** are available two days before the meeting at:
 - Our website www.kapiticoast.govt.nz;
 - Council's Libraries and Service Centres.

Wayne Maxwell
Chief Executive



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Media Muse

by Manakau's Tom Frewen

Whatever the outcome of the 2019 Rugby World Cup — GO BLACK! — the omnishambles over the television coverage has made one thing clear — the future will not all be streamed.

They — the government and the news media — keep telling us that sport will join movies in being transmitted via the internet, leaving just the news to be watched live from the couch.

Streaming television over the internet has been hailed by broadcasters, publishers and the Government as the inevitable replacement for conventional broadcasting. Big mistake. New technology rarely makes an existing one completely redundant, especially when it's working as well as broadcasting via satellite with virtually universal coverage. Broadcasters like digital technology for its interactivity and its direct access to viewer's bank accounts. Like a blowfly to dung, Spark (formerly Telecom) decided to use streaming to get money off one of New Zealand television's biggest audiences. The two top-rating programmes are the evening news and rugby starring the All Blacks, the icons at the heart of our national self-image of a plucky little country punching above its weight.

Every four years, the Rugby World Cup pits the best of the best against the best of the best. But they have off-days. In the week leading up to the semi-final, the queasy fear in the pit of the nation's stomach becomes so intense that fans' fight-flight mechanisms get jammed in neutral and they scream "Feet Don't Leave Me Now!"

It's fight/flight and it's love/hate. I love watching the All Blacks win. I hate watching them lose. I love watching Australia lose and I hate watching them win.

Down a notch, passion gives way to passing prejudice. I am deeply prejudiced against England, that ugly mix of toff and thug epitomised by Boris Johnson. I love watching them beaten by any side except Australia.

Generally, I like watching Northern Hemisphere sides being humiliated by any Southern Hemisphere team except, of course, Australia.

I support Italy against France but not against Japan. And so on. I do not relax enough to enjoy a match until whoever I'm supporting has built a lead of at least 17 points.

New research, backed by at least one expert, has established a link between watching the news on Three and late-onset Tourettes. They're working on medication but, in the meantime, viewers have only the mute button. Watching Newshub's political editor, Tova O'Brien, without hearing what she's saying is strangely soothing. As for Paddy Gower, if television was a cathedral he'd be a gargoye.

Muting Tova, Paddy and others too numerous to mention makes the news bearable while the fast-forward and reverse buttons are essential for watching rugby. You need to have SKY, obviously, to record matches which are now mostly played at night to watch "as live" in the morning.

As long as I don't know the result — by imposing strict radio silence and wearing ear plugs — it's better than watching in real time because you can zap through the ads and pre-match blather.

From then on, like Greta Garbo, I don't just "want to be alone" I haff to be alone. In a crowd, my wild shouting and flying-snot weeping fits alone would have security cracking out a straitjacket. And I occasionally make the wrong call. The off-side rule is quite tricky to interpret in

real time, especially when you've had a bit to drink. Refs are always making the wrong calls, or so it seems at the time and I once unloaded multiple obscenities on a player for lying on the ball when it turned out he was merely unconscious.

So, it has to be just me and the TV. It had been working brilliantly all year up until Australia was set to play Wales in their Pool D match. Knowing how much losing to Wales would annoy the Wallabies, I went through the rigmarole of signing up to Spark Sport and downloading the app.

After an hour of on-line chat with Nina and then Josh about my download speed, browser, device, modem, login, mother's maiden name etc, they reluctantly admitted that, for reasons they couldn't explain and contrary to their website's offer, of single matches for \$25 each "on demand" the next day actually meant \$89 for a full tournament pass.

So I missed seeing the England v Australia quarter-final which would only have been worth it if "the game of two halves" could also be a game of two losers.

Spark Sport eventually admitted that it had barely 160,000 subscribers and people gave up on finding a slot for their dongles and rebooting their browsers. But politicians and media commentators continued to insist that streaming sport over the internet was here to stay. Calling it "the new normal" the NZ Herald's technology writer Chris Keall told us to "get used to it". David Court, his counterpart at Stuff, was not so convinced.

"Spark has forced a technology on rugby fans that's clearly not fit-for-purpose," he wrote. "I find this particularly maddening because there is an existing technology that is capable of reaching all corners of New Zealand. And it's more reliable too. It's called TV."

And it's on a screen connected to a receiver pre-tuned to a signal. There were at least five different ways of getting Spark's RWC coverage up on the screen. Then a myriad of potential gremlins lurked in the software connecting the hardware, some of which required extra outlay on new equipment.

For the government, particularly the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE), Spark's streaming of the Rugby World Cup was an opportunity to capitalise on its multi-billion dollar investment in the broadband rollout and get everyone on the internet. On October 12 when the All Blacks played what was to be their final pool match, and although their opponents were rugby "minnows" Namibia and the broadcast was delayed by an hour, 770,500 viewers waited to see the game free-to-air on TVOne.

That was the week's the top-rating programme. The second largest audience, according to Nielsen, was the 583,500 viewers of TV One's 6pm news. The rival news bulletin on Three seldom makes Nielsen's Top 20 so must be under 200,000. Nevertheless, although media commentators insist that no-one watches the old-fashioned free-to-air channels anymore, the number turning in for the news of an evening remains steady at around 800,000.

The 6pm news is the gateway to prime time, 6pm to 10pm, when free-to-air television channels earn most of their revenue because — and this ain't rocket science — that's when advertisers pay a premium to reach the most eyeballs.

So, whatever the outcome of the 2019 Rugby World Cup, the omnishambles over the television coverage poses critical questions for a Government determined to make us take our television streamed over the internet.

Commitment to kaitiakitanga recognised

BY DANIELLE BARRETT

The team at Kapiti Island Nature Tours are in celebration mode this month after Managing Director John Barrett was recognised as a finalist last week at the Tourism Industry Aotearoa 2019 black-tie dinner in Otautahi (Christchurch). The awards are considered the most prestigious in New Zealand's \$39.1 billion tourism industry and John was one of 3 finalists in the Tourism Industry Champion Award category.

"More than 100 tourism businesses and individuals have entered the awards, which celebrate the industry's success, and recognise the efforts of operators to

provide economic, environmental and social benefits to New Zealanders and Aotearoa," Tourism Industry Aotearoa Chief Executive Chris Roberts says.

John says "it's a huge honour to be recognised in this way, but *ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini* - success is not the work of one, but the work of many. My success has been due to the support of many, many others over the years - in the industry, and in my iwi, hapu & whānau."

John's career began as a travel cadet working for Thomas Cook Wellington in 1965. His love of promoting New Zealand & Kapiti Island eventually saw him build a family business on Kapiti Island, highlighting its unique conservation, cultural and tourism potential. John has been Managing Director of Kapiti Island Nature Tours for the last 20 years.

John is a founding member of the World Indigenous Tourism Alliance (WINTA) which was created from the global, collective aspirations of Indigenous interests in tourism and has a strong focus on maintaining and supporting indigenous communities & culture around the world.

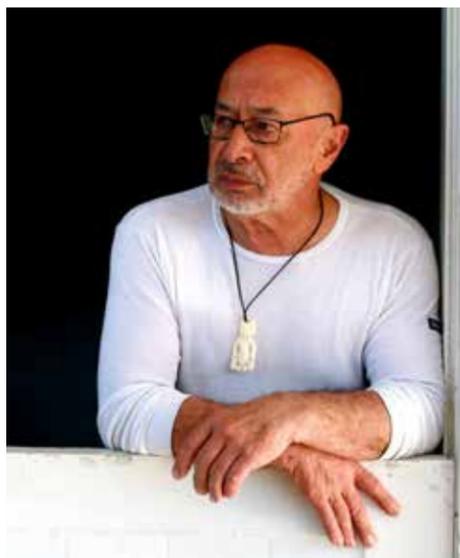
Over the last 30 years John has been involved at a board level with Tourism New Zealand, the NZ Māori Tourism Council & the NZ Tourism Industry Training Organization. His participation on local and national tourism boards has helped encourage a new approach to

sustainable business development focussed on sustainability & conservation.

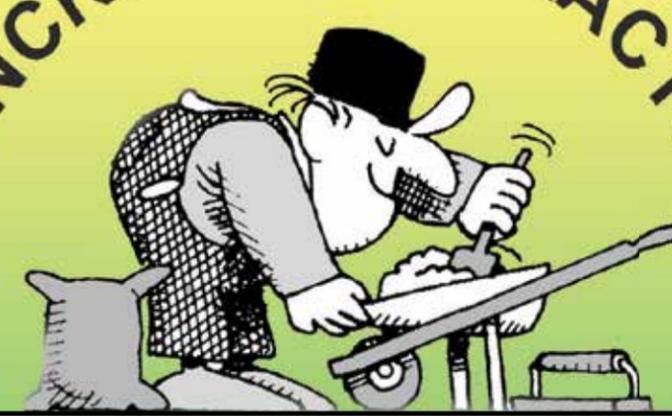
Throughout his career John has also mentored & supported rangatahi (young people) who were looking to participate in indigenous tourism around the world. He has been a strong advocate for providing clear pathways into tourism careers. In 2018 Kapiti Island Nature

Tours partnered with Service IQ to run Māori Tourism Training Camps on Kapiti Island twice a year.

This is the third year running that Kapiti Island Nature Tours have been finalists having previously won the Department of Conservation Environmental Tourism Award in 2018 and the He Kai Aku Ringa Māori Tourism Award in 2017.



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Desire for student success leads to awards

BY KAHUKURA KEMP

As we constantly strive to provide excellent service for our students we continually look for ways to be innovative and accessible in delivery of that service. Our student demographic has shifted in the last few years with a major increase in those from outside the ART Confederation's boundaries wishing to study with us part-time. Thus it became our intention to serve students wherever they are and enable them to study in their own time and at their convenience.

A business transformation project undertaken in 2018, using the Microsoft 365 suite of products, provided us with an infrastructure overhaul, aimed at working smarter. The project involved implementation of an online integrated platform centred on the student lifecycle to provide for a seamless student experience. The project achieved cohesive and seamless integration of teaching and support services; increased transparency of processes and findability of information; ability to target and track the student lifecycle; anytime, anywhere access by students and staff; standardised and streamlined processes and increased

operational efficiencies.

The project was facilitated by a change management team led by Oriwia Raureti, Noti Henare and Kiri-Olive Maxwell in tandem with an IT solutions company, InterGen, to drive the changes and provide



Noti Henare, Oriwia Raureti and Kiri-Olive Maxwell with Innovation & Excellence trophy

guidance to staff with information, training and implementation.

Our partnership with InterGen has been ideal because they took time to learn about us and about kaupapa and take them on board.

This year we were invited to attend the Tertiary ICT (Information & Communications Technology) Conference that showcases innovation in technology within the tertiary sector. The theme this year was Digital Community that explores the importance of relationships and how digital technology enables people and communities to work together to achieve common goals. Our presentation was titled 'Student success and accessibility is a business-wide transformation'. We were keen to share our experience because, in Kiri-Olive's words "it's a great story and one that is unique because it is underpinned by kaupapa. We are a relatively small outfit, our staff are all on board with kaupapa, know what we are about and the direction we want to go in."

On the advice of InterGen and Microsoft we agreed to enter the **Tertiary ICT Excellence Awards** in the **Excellence in Technology Delivery** category, which



were announced at the conference dinner. It was an unexpected surprise to be announced the winners in this category; it was an even bigger surprise to be named the **Supreme Winner** and awarded the **Innovation and Excellence** trophy.

A week later we were informed that we have achieved further recognition through the **Microsoft Partner Award** in the **Modern Workplace** category. This award was based on a case study on our business transformation project and our relationship. The award honours the partner who has empowered customers to be more mobile, more secure and more collaborative.

We are of course delighted with these achievements, not for ourselves but for our students whom we are here to serve. If our success leads to their success then we couldn't wish for anything more.

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Ōtaki's Philly reflects on first year at Massey

By PHILLY KINGSFORD-BROWN

Moving from Ōtaki to Wellington to study at Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa, Massey University, has been one of the biggest challenges that I've faced in my 19 years of life. I was not prepared for the many events and changes that were about to unfold right in front of my eyes.

I am currently studying towards a Bachelor of Creative Media Production which is a three year degree with Massey University in Wellington.

The first year of Creative Media Production (CMP) consists of an introduction to many different industry standard technologies which are categorised into courses. Such as Visual Effects, Animation, Digital Video Production, Film and Television, Media Studies, Transmedia Narrative and Storytelling, Producing and Directing only to name a few.

I completed 8 courses throughout the year each consisting of 4 or so assignments. Some of the courses I thoroughly enjoyed, others were the bane of my existence. My plan before starting University was to stick mainly to Film and Television based courses, however Massey encourages students to branch out to other courses that you may not have picked otherwise.

I did end up choosing mostly Film and Television based courses, but I also chose to do a course in Computer Animation and also a course in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics. These two courses are the ones I'm referencing to when I say 'the bane of my existence' but they were also the courses that I learnt the most in.

Working with new software and giving myself enough time to complete the assignments in these courses were the biggest challenges I faced. I was really tempted to withdraw from both of these courses, but I'm so happy I didn't!

I taught myself how to persevere and keep going, even if the character I was

animating was still lying on the floor waiting to be animated. That's one of the biggest lessons I've learnt from my first year at Uni is that even when you think you can't, you can. All it takes is perseverance and hardwork.

What did shock me about my first year at University, was the lack of Māori Representation and Culture within the campus and throughout the course material.

Coming from a Tāone Reo Rua, Bilingual Town, a freshly graduated student from a Kura-ā-Iwi was so hard. Growing up in a town where our culture means everything to us and moving to a city where Māori culture is barely there is something that I'm still trying to deal with. I miss the sense of belonging, the whānau tangata, kōtahitanga, wairuatanga.

I came to University to help give tangata

Māori a voice to express their ideas, their whakaaro, their stories through the art of film. I have to continually remind myself that I'm doing this for the greater good of our people and one day I will be able to show and tell everybody about that sense of belonging I feel when it comes to my Māori culture.

I incorporate my reo and Māoritanga in whatever I can when it comes to my coursework, but sometimes it just isn't possible.

So my goal for my next two years of study is to continue uplifting my Māoritanga through all my coursework and to continue to grow through the new skills and knowledge that I'm learning on this journey through university at Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa.



2020 Homestays for International Students

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- There is 24 hour support for you and your student if needed.
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- Members over 18 living in your household will be Police vetted as part of the application process.

Students are being allocated now for next year, arriving end of January.

Their stays are anywhere between 10 weeks and 1 year. Please make contact by email if you think this would suit you and your household.

I look forward to answering any questions you might have.

Tania – Homestay Manager ttk@otakicollege.school.nz

Ōtaki College News

October 2019

www.otakicollege.school.nz

From the Principal Andy Fraser

We are now finding ourselves at the business end of the year as our senior students are finalizing internal assessments for NCEA and readying themselves for external examinations. While all of this is taking place there is lots of activity around the organization of the Sports and Senior Prizegivings.

I continue to be amazed by the abilities that our students possess, and wish to sincerely congratulate Parekawa Finlay on her selection to the Young Shakespeare Company 2020 which will be performing in London next year.

It was also great to catch up with Karen Su and Michelle Young who have had an amazing time in China recently as a result of their HSK Chinese Language Examination Scholarships.

My congratulations also to Eva Hakaraia who has just won a McDairmid Nanocamp Scholarship which will take her to Auckland University for a week to explore various aspects of science research.

Recently we have also had a number of students who have excelled in their chosen sports. Cadence McHugo has been selected for the Wellington Regional Women's Secondary Football Team and her National Age Grade Team with Capital Football. Kiri Enoka-Winiata has been away playing softball in the USA and Stella Park has recently won a silver medal in a National Taekwondo event. In the equestrian field we have had Lauren and Ashleigh Blakeley and Kaitlyn Freeman competing as part of the Horowhenua Equestrian Team who recently won the National Show Hunter Championships.

My sincere congratulations to all these students for their outstanding achievements and I am also looking forward to prizegiving night where we will continue to celebrate all the other outstanding achievements that have occurred throughout 2019.

Looking to the future, our new Board of Trustees is working hard to develop the next stages in the College Strategic Plan and I would urge you all to take every opportunity to engage in the process in order for the College to truly reflect the Ōtaki community that it serves.

In closing I would also like to report to our community that the report from our recent Education Review Office review can be found on the Education Review Office website and that this has again given confirmation that the College has been very effective in the delivery of education to our young people and are well placed to continue this into the future.

We look forward to seeing our community at our prizegivings.

Ngā mihi nui, Andy Fraser, Principal

Off to London!

In October, Parekawa Finlay (Year 13) attended the Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand National Shakespeare Schools Production (NSSP). Parekawa was one of 48 young people from around NZ selected for this prestigious course following her double award-winning Othello performance with Ari Leason at the National Festival in June.

During the week-long residential programme, Parekawa attended a range of workshops, including stage combat, mime, and voice production. The participants were divided into three groups with professional directors, and for part of each day, rehearsed a shortened version of one of



Shakespeare's plays for performance at the end of the week.

Parekawa was in the group directed by well-known actor and director, Erina Daniels, preparing a performance of Henry V. There is a great deal of French language spoken in this play and Parekawa said that the students struggled with this until they suggested that all the French be translated into Māori. The final NSSP performance of the bilingual English/Te Reo Māori Henry V took place in the Legislative Chamber of Parliament and was attended by Parekawa's whānau and friends.

A nail-biting week followed as we waited to hear if Parekawa had been selected as one of the 24 students to go to the Globe Theatre in London next July. Her positive and creative contributions during the week were recognised when she was chosen as part of the SGCNZ Young Shakespeare Company 2020: she is off to London!

As far as we are aware, Parekawa is only the third Ōtaki College student to be selected for the YSC London trip. The other two were Tua Fa'avale and Juliet Kane, who were chosen for the SGCNZ YSC 2009 following their 'Kath and Kim' style production of The Merry Wives of Windsor, student-directed by Juliet Kane and Sophia Cataldo. Tua Fa'avale went on to study drama at Whitireia and has directed successful productions for our local Ōtaki Players.

We wish Parekawa all the best for the SGCNZ Young Shakespeare Company 2020 and her future in the performing arts.

Jess Torley, Curriculum Leader of English Year 12 students Karen Su and Michelle Young were given the opportunity to travel to China in September with students from Victoria University and a group of students from around New Zealand. This was a result of the girls achieving 100% in the HSK Chinese language examination.

Adventures in China, by Karen Su

On 22nd September Michelle and I arrived at Xiamen (a coastal city in China) Airport where we were warmly greeted (quite literally because it was 30 degrees) by some first year students of Xiamen University. Upon arriving at the 600 hectare Xiamen University, the whole group was stunned by just how beautiful and big the University was, we also had the privilege to each stay in the dorms of the school and were provided with delicious traditional Chinese foods



for breakfast through to dinner. We did many Chinese cultural activities such as sand art, water painting, trying exotic foods like dragon fruit, pig ears and cow tongue (which I thought was quite nice) and tie dying. During our stay in Xiamen we also visited the famous Gulangyu Island (Piano island) which is famous for the music schools, as well as a High School in the area. It was quite amazing to see their talents and achievements in school subjects, such as Art, Soccer and Photography, as well as how big their school is compared to Ōtaki College.

After a week of learning and exploring Xiamen University, we set out on our one week tour around the biggest city in China, Shanghai. Here we visited many popular tourist attractions including the Bund, Tea Fields and The West Lake in Hangzhou. We also visited the Chinese Canal City in Suzhou and explored Shanghai's Oriental Pearl TV Tower. All these activities further gave me an idea of how crowded and populated China is. Coincidentally, it was the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic of China, so tourist destinations were especially crowded. We also went to a

market where fake and knock off brands were sold. Here we practiced and learnt how to bargain with the shop owners, this was probably one of my highlights of the trip as we all had so much fun and there was lots of laughter.

Personally, I thought this opportunity was an experience of a lifetime and that it is an adventure I would recommend anyone to take part in, if ever given the chance. Not only did my Chinese cultural knowledge improve, but also my confidence in speaking Chinese improved dramatically. I also made many new friends from all over New Zealand and China which made the trip even more enjoyable. However, it was very difficult parting ways with everyone at the airport, as many tears were shed and many hugs were exchanged. I never imagined that throughout a short two weeks I could make such great friends with people I have never met before.

Our thanks to everyone who helped make this trip possible – especially the Ōtaki Commercial Growers Trust, Ōtaki Community Board and Ōtaki College.

Ōtaki Waka Hoe teams triumphant



After months of fundraising throughout the winter months, Ōtaki Waka Hoe teams have returned from the Trans-Tasman Gubbi Gubbi Championships in Queensland. While there was much to celebrate, a number of highlights stood out for them. Young paddlers from Ōtaki clubs - Hawaiiinui Tuarua and Ōtaki

Waka Hoe, trained together for this event with the Trans-Tasman championship timed perfectly for New Zealand's pre-summer National Waka Ama sprints training. Both clubs share a healthy competitive spirit and race each other at both regional and national events so it was nice to wear the same race strip.

Ōtaki's History

Contributed by the Otaki Historical Society and the Otaki Museum

Otaki Museum Collection

BY DI BUCHAN

This month's exhibit is made up of items which Iolanthe Small, the great-granddaughter of Mary and William Small, donated to the museum. Although the family moved to New Plymouth in 1936, Iolanthe never forgot her roots in Otaki. She was a member of the Otaki Historical Society and a Friend of the Otaki Museum for many years.

Mary and William Small came to Otaki from Scotland in the early 1860s and set up a store and smithy in what was then a tiny settlement. These burnt down in 1882. They purchased land south of the river in the 1870s and after the fire, they built a home on their land and established a farm.

Their farm was called Clifden and it ran

from the Otaki River to Old Hautere Road. Over the years, four generations of the Small family lived on the farm. The homestead eventually became part of Bridge Lodge. It has now been removed to make way for the Expressway currently under construction.

Their only son Alexander, and his wife Helen owned a store in Otaki but when William died in 1885, they moved to Clifden to help run the farm. Helen and Alexander also had one son. His name was Harold. He studied at Lincoln Agricultural College and used the knowledge he gained there to introduce many ground-breaking farming practices including adaptations to traditional farm machinery (they had their own smithy), a new style of milking shed and an innovative pig-sty. He also formulated his

own remedies for the treatment of diseases among his farm animals.

As well as being a leader among the farming community, Harold held many civic positions in the district including being a JP and Chairman of the Horowhenua County Council. He was also a member of the Otaki Literary and Debating Club and a life member of the Otaki Horticultural Society.

In addition to cows, pigs and chickens, Clifden also had a two-acre market garden and orchard with a huge variety of fruits and nuts. Helen and her children added to the farm's productivity by growing violets and daffodils for the Wellington market.

The items on display include encased photos of William and Mary, a gold pocket watch, Harold's agricultural

notebook, Mary's hymn book and William's hand-written will dated 1883.

There are very interesting articles about the Small family in 3 Journals produced by the Otaki Historical Society. These can be viewed or purchased at the Otaki Museum.

Regarding our previous exhibit which focused on hair-dressing implements, in response to the Otaki Mail article Irene Mackle very kindly lent the Museum a comb to add to the collection. The comb had been given to her by Dola Derham who had been given it by her father, George Harper an early Otaki lawyer. George was fluent in te reo Māori and was an interpreter at Pukekarakara. The comb was gifted to him by local tangata whenua for his honest dealings during land sales.

Bee Keeping Through the Seasons

PENNY KERR-HISLOP

If you are going to steal bee hives from a hard-working, most likely verging on broke commercial bee-keeper at this time of year, here are a few useful tips.

Make sure that the hives actually have bees in them. Empty hive boxes are easy to make and relatively cheap to buy and most people who are handy with a saw and some timber could knock a few up over the weekend. Oh yes, make sure the timber is not tannalised- that is not allowed as toxic when absorbed by honey and can also harm the bees. The most recent theft from Beagle Bees in Napier allegedly involved the theft of empty hive boxes rather than populated hives. Not sure why as the bees and the queen are the most valuable part of the whole shebang. Perhaps the thieves lacked the guts to steal hives with real bees inside, maybe weren't strong enough to lift them or just screwed up.

Make sure that your ute is not easily recognisable – most beekeepers do not live in urban areas and there is always someone local who would just love to do you and your illicit cargo in to the cops. Also, even if you cover the number plate with mud, there are always lots of ute watchers around. Ute envy is a big thing in Aotearoa New Zealand. Ford vs

Holden, 4 door vs 2 door, flatdeck vs canopy, and then there are the big new "Sod Off" giant utes made by Isuzu and Mitsubishi and Toyota and they draw lots of attention. Quite often people have their business logos and phone numbers on their utes too.

Some utes have very obvious lifters screwed to the flatdeck – these are not that common, but to steal full to bursting hives at this time of year, you would definitely need a lifter. Or a whole lot of you with muscles.

Make very sure that the local cops really don't give a damn. Our rural cops are hardworking and tend to know who the low lifes are and so probably you will need to travel to an area where you are not so well known for thievery and skulduggery. This can be tricky as the ute spotters mentioned above are likely to comment on a "strange" ute in the area and remember exactly the make without even having to see the brand logo on the front or back.



Real beekeepers have special tools to get into hives and they have special suits to protect from bee stings. How dreadful it would be to be in the middle of stealing hives and get stung and then die from anaphylactic shock- because remember you are most likely to be in the middle of nowhere on a dark moonless night and your mum might not have told you that you are allergic. Also a sting allergy can creep up on you and catch you unawares, especially if you have been stealing bees for a while and have already had a few stings. It's when you have a build up of histamines in your system and your body reacts. Some of the very best beekeepers can develop this over time and it is quite sad to see honest hardworking men and women stymied in their world saving work. So, another very important tip is to carry an epi pen with you and hope your mates have the clues to administer it subcutaneously.

So, hopefully this will help you in some important decision making for the future. For my next article I am going to describe some things I could do to people who steal hives and they mostly involve very angry bees.

Waitohu School

Mid-Winter Raffle results

First Prize Winner Barbara Bevan
- sold by Jeana Bevan

Second Prize Winner Joe & Carey @ Salut - sold by Cian Young

Third Prize Winner Kirk Bradshaw
- sold by Axel Bradshaw

Fourth Prize Winner Carolyn Lawton
- sold by Nevaeh Gardner

Fifth Prize Winner T & L Christensen
- sold by Phoniex Wooller

Sixth Prize Winner Nikki McLean
- sold by Tereora Toimata



Notice to all Society Members

Annual General Meeting

Ōtaki Montessori Pre-School Incorporated
Wednesday 27 November 2019, 7.30pm

To be held at the Pre-school,
Haruatai Park, Mill Road, Ōtaki

All Welcome

Immigration – Visitor's Visa

Do you have a family member from overseas who you have sponsored to visit you in New Zealand?

What responsibilities do you have if they have an accident or injury while in New Zealand, would they be covered by ACC? Or if they end up in a hospital for serious illness, who pays for the hospital bills?

If your relative is not eligible for publicly funded health treatment while they are in New Zealand then the District Health Board would bill them for their hospital treatment – although if they were injured in an accident here, they would be covered by ACC.

As your relative's sponsor, you are responsible for them while they are in New Zealand. This means that if they are unable to pay their New Zealand bills (e.g. because they have died) or leave the country without paying them, you can be pursued for those debts.

It is usually a good idea for anyone planning travel to another country to get travel insurance with health cover, before they leave. If your relative had travel insurance you can contact the insurer about making a claim for the hospital costs. You might have to pay the hospital bill and then wait for reimbursement from the insurer.

Otherwise, you can contact the District Health Board to tell them of the situation. They may be able to arrange a payment plan that you can manage.

If your relative is an Australian or UK resident visiting New Zealand, then under a reciprocal agreement they are eligible for some types of publicly funded medical treatment. The Ministry of Health recommends that they should still have travel insurance, including health insurance.

The full list of eligibility criteria for the limited range of publicly funded services is on the [Ministry of Health website](#). If they don't fit any of the eligibility criteria then they will be expected to pay for their medical treatment, so it's a good idea to get health insurance before they leave home.

All nationalities are eligible for free treatment in New Zealand if they qualify for [Accident Compensation \(ACC\)](#) cover. The ACC scheme covers all visitors to New Zealand in cases of personal injury or accident. ACC is not a replacement for [travel insurance](#) and will not cover illness, disrupted travel plans or emergency travel home. The injury must have happened in New Zealand.

For more details about the above information, you are most welcome to visit/call or email Citizens Advice Bureau. We would be pleased to help you.



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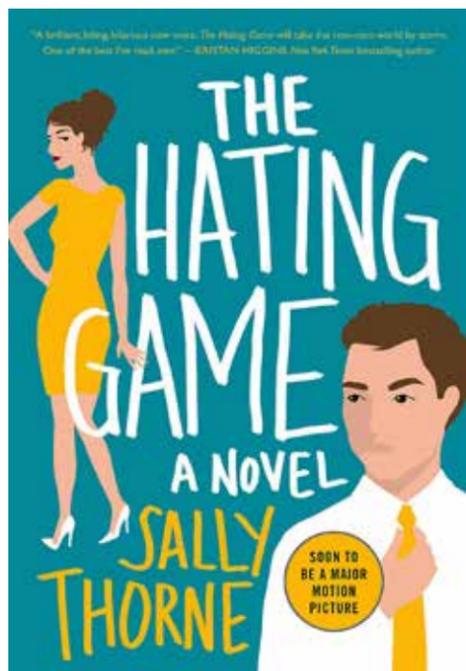
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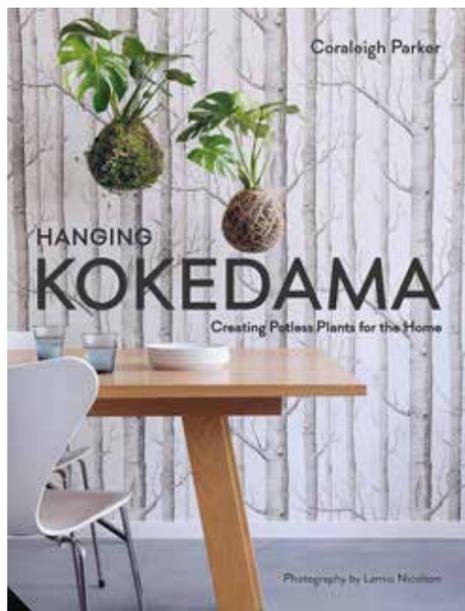
The Hating Game
by Sally Thorne. Librarian's Pick.

Reviewed By Stephnie.

I am a lover of non-fiction or your standard murder-mystery, but what really makes me smile is a ridiculous romantic comedy. *The Hating Game* by Sally Thorne is all this and more. It made my rom-com-loving heart sing.

The book follows Lucy Hutton and Joshua Templeman, executive assistants to the CEOs of newly merged Bexley-Gamin Publishing. Things get heated (in more ways than one) when a new executive position opens up in the company. Who will win the coveted new position? And more importantly, to what lengths will they go to win the dream job?

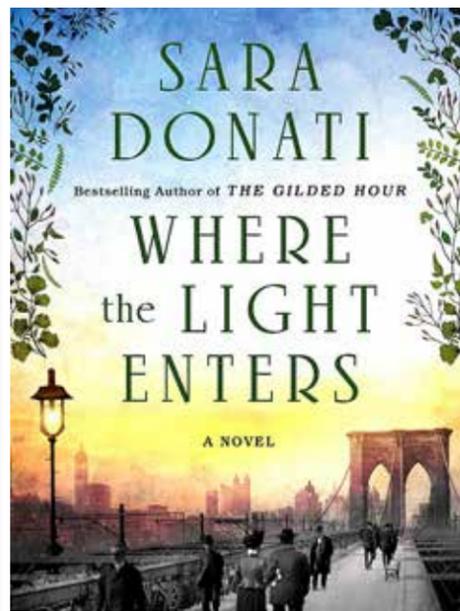
The Hating Game is such a delightful read - just a little bit sexy, quite a bit funny and with just the right amount of heart. I really felt for Lucy who just wants everyone to like her and can't understand why Joshua is such a bully. It was a joy getting to know these two characters, with the ending even bringing a tear to my eye.



Hanging Kokedama: Creating Potless Plants for the Home
by Coraleigh Parker

Decorating with indoor plants has never been more popular and hanging kokedama is the ultimate botanical trend. New Zealand botanist Coraleigh Parker is a master of this centuries-old Japanese art form. Her breath-taking moss ball creations, featuring ferns, succulents, herbs, orchids and even small trees, are suspended in mid-air and supported by nothing more than a series of strings or fishing lines, intricately wrapped around a root ball. With 25 easy-to-follow projects, this book will have you creating your own hanging wonderland in no time.

Want to know more? Join our Kokedama Workshop at Ōtaki Library on 22 November – 10.30am – 12:00pm

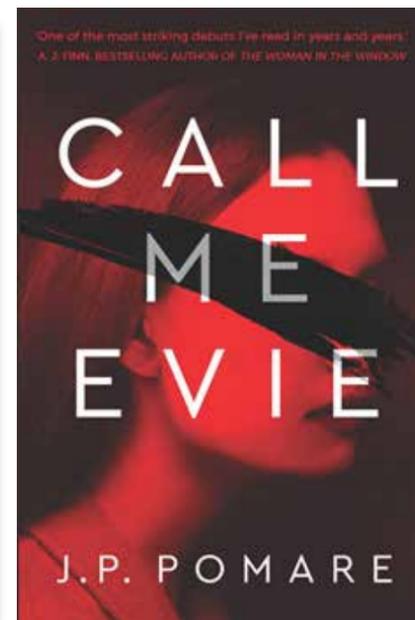


Where the Light Enters
by Sara Donati

From the international bestselling author of *The Gilded Hour* comes this enthralling epic about two trailblazing female doctors in nineteenth-century New York.

Dr. Sophie Savard, daughter of free people of color returns home to Manhattan to rebuild her life after the death of her husband. With the help of her cousin, Dr. Anna Savard, she plans to continue her work helping disadvantaged women.

But, as Sophie sets out to construct a new life for herself, Anna's husband, Detective-Sergeant Jack Mezzanotte calls on them both to consult on two new cases: the wife of a prominent banker has disappeared into thin air, and the corpse of a young woman is found with baffling wounds that suggest a killer is on the loose. In New York it seems that the advancement of women has brought out the worst in some men.



Call me Evie
by J.P. Pomare

Evie and her uncle Jim have just moved to an isolated cabin in the Bay of Plenty -- a far cry from their hometown of Melbourne. But Evie isn't her real name. And Jim isn't really her uncle. Jim tells Evie she did something terrible back home, that he's hiding her to protect her. But can she trust him or her own fragmented memories?

With characters that keep you guessing and a plot that keeps you turning the page, this is a literary thriller for readers of bestsellers such as *Gone Girl*, *Before I Go to Sleep* and *Girl on the Train*.

J.P. Pomare was born in New Zealand and resides in Melbourne with his wife. *Call Me Evie* is his first novel.

Remember, Remember,

It is this time of the year again. Fireworks season is about to start.

A time that can highly distress our pets. Loud noises and flashing lights can send them into frenzies where they run away, go missing or get injured.

Not only dogs and cats are affected, every animal (and human) is at risk of being spooked.

Planning ahead is a massive help in preventing issues, and there are several options available for both, dogs and cats.

Make sure you keep your pets inside when you are aware of fireworks happening in your area.

Close doors, windows and draw the curtains and you can also have background noises like the tv or radio running to muffle the noise of the fireworks.

Enable your pet to find somewhere comforting to hide in the house.



You can also use pheromonal products, available from your local vets, which give off a soothing and comforting scent that only animals can smell.

Also make sure your pet is microchipped and registered on the National Database, in case they do panic and run away. That way it will help reunite you with your pet.

Please have a chat to us at the clinic to find the strategy most suitable for you and your pet.

If you are planning on setting off fireworks yourselves, it can be a great help if you let your neighbourhood know in advance, so they can get prepared and keep their animals safe.

You can do this by door knocking, leaving a note in letterboxes or, with the internet being omnipresent there might also be an online neighbourhood group where you can inform everyone of your plans.

Your neighbours and their pets will thank you.



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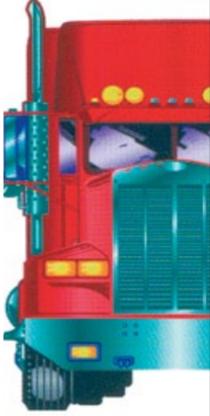
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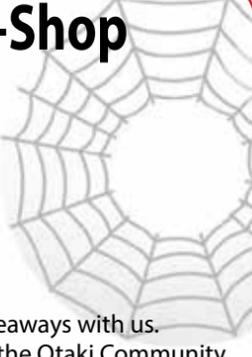
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Annual General Meeting

Ōtaki Montessori Pre-School Incorporated
Wednesday 27 November 2019, 7.30pm

To be held at the Pre-school,
Haruatai Park, Mill Road, Ōtaki

All Welcome



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Te Horo St Margarets School Rd
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Manakau St Andrews
1st Sunday, Cafe Church, 9.30am
2nd & 4th Sundays, Eucharist 9am

Ōtaki Rangiatea Church Services
37 Te Rauparaha St
Sunday Eucharist: 9am
Church viewing hours, school terms:
Mon–Fri 9.30am–1.30pm
tel office: 364 6838
email: rangiatea.church@xtra.co.nz

Shannon Turongo Church, Poutu Marae
Shannon/Foxton Highway
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Levin Ngatokowaru Marae
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10.15 am Big Wednesday

Baptist
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Otaki SurfLifesavers - overachievers

BY NIKKI LUNDIE

Our senior competitors – Iron Squad – have been busy over the past month with a number of our crew competing both here and internationally. We're super proud of the whole squad for their ongoing commitment and incredible achievements.

On the 21st of September 2019, Central Regional Pool Champs was held in Palmerston North. Sterling Maxwell came home with gold medals for 100m manikin tow with fins and 50m manikin carry, a silver medal for 50m swim with fins, and a bronze medal for his 200m swim with obstacle. Cadence McHugo gained 2 silver medals for her 200m swim with obstacle and 100m manikin tow with fins. Logan Philp won silver medals for his 50m manikin carry, 200m swim with

obstacle and 100m manikin tow with fins. Atakura Julian recently represented NZ as a member of the Junior Black Fins in Durban, South Africa, at the International Surf Rescue Championship where they finished second overall to Australia. This event was a critical stepping-stone in the journey towards World Championships in one year's time, with the athletes ready to build on their performances over the coming summer.

A crew of 4 attended NZ Pool Championships on the 12th & 13th October 2019, at Owen Glen Aquatic Centre in Auckland where Sam Brown gained 3 gold and 1 silver medal; and Sterling Maxwell a bronze medal. The Surf Life Saving New Zealand Pool Rescue Championships is in its 17th year and are an important development event for current and aspiring Surf Life Guards

as they work on their skills for the season ahead.

During the same weekend, another team of four headed to Australia to compete in the Coolangatta Gold on the Gold Coast in Queensland.

Ella Kingi won bronze in the U19 Womens Short Course 21km (including a 10.5km ski, 2km swim, 3km board and 5.5km run);

Luther Maxwell took out the gold medal in the U19 Mens Long Course 42k (including a 23km ski, 2.1km run, 3.5km swim, 6.1km board and a 7.1km run. David Long claimed a gold medal in the Open Men's Long Course. This iconic endurance race with its 34-year-long history, also doubled as the first round of the 2019/20 Nutri-Grain Ironman and IronWoman Series.



CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL!!



Luther Maxwell - Gold Coast Medal winner



Rāhui's captain Kylee Gardner presents a winner's medal to team-mate Te Rina Marsh

Rāhui women are rugby champions

BY FRANK NEILL

The Rāhui women's rugby team became the Horowhenua Kāpiti champions when they crushed Paraparaumu 78-12 in the final on 23 October.

In just their first season in championship rugby the Rāhui women dominated the competition, finishing without a loss to become worthy holders of the Horowhenua Kāpiti Rugby Football Union Women's Championship Cup.

The final, held at Playford Park, Levin, saw the Ōtaki team score 14 tries, while Paraparaumu only crossed the line twice.

Fresh from being named in the New Zealand Development Team earlier in the week, Grace Kaihau led the try scoring when she dotted down three times. The 19-year-old lock also added four conversions.

Two players scored two tries each – Christina Tuitupou and Maraia Murray.

Rāhui's captain, Kylie Gardner, also scored a try, as did Hinekura Connor-Phillips, Raureka Gray, Zivana Eriha, Shay-Marie Peneha, Rongomai Te Hei and Andrea Rosser.

As they have been all season, Rāhui were dominant in every phase of the game. They passed and ran superbly and were very competitive at the breakdown. Their defence was also very sound. In fact,

Paraparaumu were held scoreless until the final few minutes of the match.

Coached by Makaore Wilson, who is also the Rāhui Club Captain, the team never scored fewer than 50 points in the four matches they played.

That is a notable achievement by a team containing some members who had never played rugby before this season, and a team that ranged in age from 51 to 17 years.

In the first round they beat Athletic Wanderers 51-0. Shannon were in for an even bigger defeat at the hands of Rāhui in round two, with the Ōtaki team clocking up a 70-0 victory.

Round three saw Rāhui face Paraparaumu in what would be a dress rehearsal of the final, and the Ōtaki team won 55-22.

Round four saw them victorious without having to take the field when Levin College Old Boys defaulted.

Although Rāhui's victory in the final represented the end of the club rugby season for women in the region, it will not be the end of the season for some players, as the Horowhenua Kāpiti women's representative team was due to be announced shortly after the Ōtaki Mail went to press.

Given their fine showing in the club competition, it would be a brave pundit who predicted that there would not be a good number of Rāhui players representing their province.



The champion Rāhui women's rugby team with their medals and the Horowhenua Kāpiti Rugby Football Union Women's Championship Cup. They were joined by some of their children, their coaches and other club officials after their convincing 78-12 victory in the final.



Grace Kaihau, who has been named in the New Zealand Development Team. Grace played a major hand in helping her team convincingly win the final. She scored three tries and four conversions