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August 2023

Kahutiaterangi Barr-Rikihana 2023 Seoul Friendship Festival

BY VIVIENNE BAILEY

It is hard to choose between your two super passions: rugby and kapa haka. But that was the dilemma facing 16-year-old Ōtaki College student, Kahutiaterangi (Kahutia) Barr-Rikihana. Kahutia chose kapa haka and, after training with Whitireia Performing Arts in Wellington, was selected for their kapa haka team, Taranaki Whanui Māori. The team recently travelled to South Korea to take part in the 2023 Seoul Friendship Festival.

“I’ve travelled to Australia before, but this was the first time to somewhere so exotic,” he says. “It kind of opened my eyes.”

The Year 12 student was the youngest of a thirteen-member team – “most of them were over twenty” – whose three performances enthralled the Korean capital’s festival goers.

“The festival took place over five days, so it was kind of full-on,” he says. “The performances were around twenty minutes long, we had one performance on the Saturday, two on Sunday.”



The Friendship Festival featured a vast array of food stalls, high-energy parades and attracted various performing teams from USA, Thailand, the Philippines and Japan. But Kahutia tells me the visit made him appreciate the openness, the cleanness of his home country.

“Seoul was very polluted, smoky air, rubbish around the streets,” he says. “And it was so hot and humid, about thirty degrees most days.

Born and raised in Ōtaki (Ngāti Raukawa), Kahutia has family ties to the East Coast (Whāngārā-mai-i-Tawhiti), but plans to study in Auckland next year, pursuing another passion, information technology.

“I’m keen on IT,” he explains. “I’ll be studying coding and logic, it’s a hands-on qualification.”

Once qualified, Kahutia hopes to return to Ōtaki to work with Te Waananga O Raukawa, to share his knowledge.



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Ōtaki Players: You won't dare look away

BY GRAHAM ORCHARD

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Musical Directors: Graham Orchard and Andrea King

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Major advantages of having a trust

BY FLEUR HOBSON

If you have a trust it will be facing a bigger tax bill, following a change announced in the government's 2023 Budget.

The Budget provided for an increase in trustee tax from 33% to 39%. The new tax will take effect from 1 April 2024.

The government made the change to stop people who are paying the top tax rate of 39% on their earnings from making a 6% saving by accumulating income within a trust.

Because of this now may be a good time for a review of any trust or trusts you may have. If you don't have a trust, now may be a good idea to consider the advantages that trusts can provide and to set one up.

In the case of some trusts the tax change may mean that having a trust is no longer relevant, as administering a trust will come with a higher cost.

In many cases, however, trusts will continue to be relevant.

There are some major advantages of trusts that will continue despite the increase in tax. Some of these advantages are:

1. Trusts are a very good way to set aside money or assets for a particular purpose, such as a child's or grandchild's education.
2. Trusts can protect assets from claims by creditors. This may, for example, protect the family home following your business failing.
3. Trusts can be used for income splitting even after the tax increase announced in Budget 2023. Income derived from assets (but not personal income) will, in many cases, be able to be distributed on a 33%, 30%, 17.5% or 10.5% tax rate.

4. Trusts can be used to protect property against estate claims. One example is a claim from a former partner.

5. You can use a trust to make sure your children, and not their partners, keep their inheritance.

If any of these advantages apply to you and you do not currently have a trust it may be worthwhile talking to a lawyer about setting one up.

If you have a trust but have not reviewed it recently, now may be a good time to do it, especially if you have not reviewed it since the Trusts Act 2019 came into force on 31 January 2021.

This law makes some significant changes to what must happen for trusts. It could mean that, for you, a trust is no longer cost-effective. Or it may be that you don't want to comply with the increased legal requirements. Or it may be that the reasons you set up the trust are no longer relevant.

Among the series of changes the Trusts Act 2019 made are increased compliance requirements, a list of "default duties" trustees must carry out and a requirement that trustees must provide the trust beneficiaries with basic trust information.

This may mean that it would be important to make one or more changes.

These could include varying the trust, resettling a new trust or winding up the trust. Once again, getting advice from a good lawyer is highly recommended.

You are welcome to come and see us for assistance in exploring your options and obtaining advice on what is best for your particular situation. Contact Fleur or Susie at Susie Mills Law, 364 7190, 282 Mill Road – opposite Farmlands.

Setting up a trust is something you may have been thinking about, but haven't quite got around to. If that is the case, we would be only too willing to advise and assist you too.

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TE HORO TALK

BY VIVIENNE BAILEY

Faith Farm Fresh

Despite road closures, a new expressway and a pandemic, Faith Farm Fresh continue to pull avid A2 milk lovers to their Te Horo gate-side store (Old State Highway One). Opening in 2020, the premium quality (and good value) ultra-fresh milk has found customers not just on the Kāpiti Coast, but others further afield such as Wellington and the Wairarapa. Their eco message is strong, reduce plastic waste by bringing your own container or buy their one-litre glass bottles – sold onsite.

The demographics of the Te Horo community have changed considerably, the old State Highway has very little traffic, so it is heartening to see a local business thriving.

Te Horo Garden Centre

Eugene at Te Horo Garden Centre really knows her plants, and what grows well in her local area, so I was delighted to see the centre stocking *Garrya elliptica* also known

as the silk tassel bush. Often hard to source, the evergreen plant produces tassels of greyish-green to silver-grey flowers from late winter to early spring. Like many silvery-grey-leaved plants, it tolerates dry coastal conditions, and brings an attractive touch to a beachside garden.

Eugene specialises in the unusual and hard to find, bringing more than thirty years of experience in the gardening business to Te Horo Garden Centre, corner Old State Highway One and Te Horo Beach Road.

Ag night at Te Horo School

Agricultural Night is a traditional part of Te Horo School's rural calendar and is a chance for children to rear a lamb, kid or calf. Birth dates for calves are July to 1 August inclusive, for lambs and kids 15 July onwards. School judging days are 6–11 November 2023.

Students can also find their green fingers and grow a garden at their home (within the school community).

For further information contact the school office, 06 364 3071.

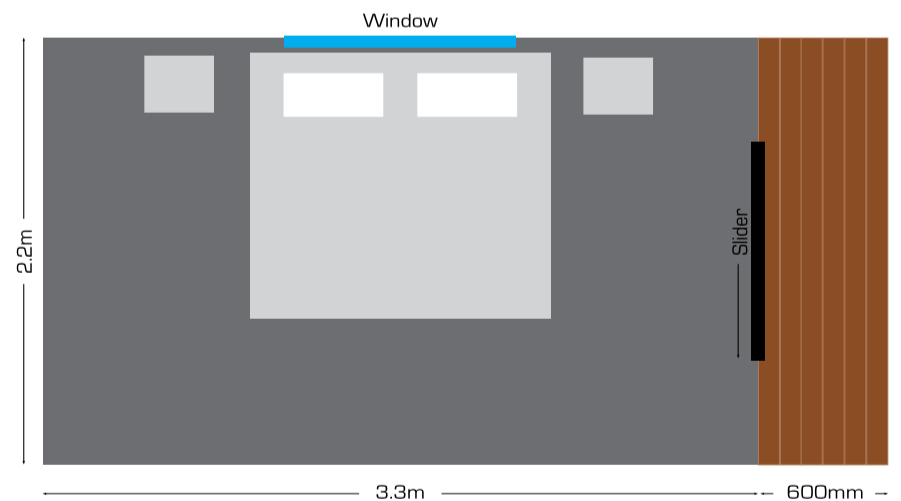
Drinks and Nibbles

Catch up with neighbours, old and new, at Te Horo's monthly social get-together, Friday 4 August, 5.30pm at Te Horo Hall. Bring a plate of nibbles to share and something to drink. All welcome.





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Te Horo School Out-of-Zone Enrolment Places

Term 1 2024

The Board has determined that 6 places are likely to be available for Year 0–1; 4 places in Year 4; 3 places in Year 7; and 3 places in Year 8 for out-of-zone students for Term 1 2024.

The exact number of places will depend on the number of applications received from students who live within the school's home zone.

For students seeking enrolment within Term 1 2024, the deadline for receipt of applications for out-of-zone places is noon, 22 September.

Parents of students who live within the home zone and intend enrolling their child at any time during the next year should notify the school to assist the school to continue to plan appropriately.

Ballot forms are available from the school office office@th.school.nz or call 06 364 3071.

If the number of out-of-zone applications exceeds the number of places available, students will be selected by ballot. If a ballot for out-of-zone places is required for a Term 1 2023 start, it will be held on 28 November 2022. Parents will be informed of the outcome of the ballot within three school days of the ballot being held.

Enrolment at the school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available from the school office: office@th.school.nz

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Te Horo Hall, 56 School Road, Te Horo

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- Set up your local Community Emergency Hub
- Ensure those in need are supported
- Overcome potential challenges together
- Make the most of the resources you have locally

Everyone is welcome. Join in and be more prepared as a community.



Learn more about your Community Emergency Hub, go to www.wremo.nz or GetPrepared.nz/hubs



Taking Ōtaki's pulse



Winter Blues and Vitamin D

BY ANN CHAPMAN

One of the problems with winter is not only that it's the season for coughs, colds and the Flu, but it also means the absence – for periods at least, of sunlight.

The days are shorter, the darkness longer, the sun weaker or even absence for days on end, and sunlight is needed for the body to get a critical vitamin, Vitamin D.

It is a vital element in protecting your bones and an absence of it can cause loss of bone density, osteoporosis and falls, leading to broken bones. It's often called the sunshine vitamin because your body makes it when exposed to sunlight.

Although you can get it through your diet,

fatty fish and fortified dairy products contain it the best way to get enough to keep you healthy is from sunlight. In countries with long dark winters, it is the most common vitamin deficiency.

It's a fat soluble vitamin and there is evidence that also promotes immunity, may help prevent not only bone loss but depression, type 2 diabetes, and heart disease.

Signs and Symptoms

Vitamin D deficiency can be difficult to notice because symptoms may not occur for several months or years. Sometimes, you may have no symptoms at all. Keeping

that in mind, it's still helpful to know what signs and symptoms to look for. Frequent illness or infections may be the result of a lack of Vitamin D, which has the important role of warding off viruses and bacteria which cause illnesses. If you are frequently ill with cold, the flu or respiratory tract infections there may be a link between that and low Vitamin D.

Fatigue and poor sleep can also be noted in studies about low Vitamin D as has muscular pain, hair loss, bone density loss and weight gain, so it's worthwhile going outside when the sun is shining and get a daily dose of Vitamin D.



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The Rongoā Space

BY JOANNE HAKARAIA

Rongoā of the Month KOHEKOHE

I have written about Kohekohe before and felt the urge to write about its holistic nature. I have sat in immersion with Kohekohe for years. Each time it delivers a powerful shake-up, physically and emotionally.

It's a rongoā for the whare tangata in that it clears pathways and brings balance. To go deeper into learning its full holistic medicine is to understand the whare tangata both physically and spiritually.

The rongoā of Kohekohe is bitter. But when you fall in love with the rākau and know what it's doing the bitterness becomes your friend. It's best to fully taste the plant and connect with it while the rongoā is flowing into your system. Feel the wiri in the tinana as it shifts your cells. Observe what your body does during this time. Bitterness shakes the body to the core and flushes out impurities. The body shudders from the taste but it's the shuddering and quivering that moves cellular processes.

We are so used to having our drinks and food sweetened that we have become impervious to natural plant juices. We can't seem to accept the naturalness of what a plant tastes like anymore without having to add something more palatable. I implore you to learn to relish the natural taste of the plant because it is in the taste of the plant that initiates the cells to re-balance.

Taste is Sound

Sound is Vibration

Vibration is Mauri (Life Force)

Kohekohe began flowering on the Kapiti Coast around May. Some are still in flower. The flowers and fruit are found on panicles growing directly from the stem. The tree is absolutely stunning when in flower.

She clears pathways and creates space. She works to provide a warm and nurturing environment for cultivation and conception. She has a powerful bite that shudders clogged energy to the surface. She will wiri the walls of the whare tangata, and of the tinana. She has a bite and a sharpness in her way of healing. She will reveal to you what to do and expect that you heard her. It will be subtle and precise. This is the time to observe your body and make the necessary adjustments to what your body needs.

Let go of 'bits and pieces' that cramp your space. Your space is creative space. When it's full of junk and disorderly so too is your creativity or space of incubation. Allow the energy to move and flow easily. I liken it to a stream of running water moving effortlessly toward the ocean. It flows downstream as if it knows its way. Any obstacle in its way it will find a way to flow around it or through it. If the debris is heavier it takes longer to move around and can cause stagnation. Stagnation begins to smell and attract undesirables and eventually the stagnant water becomes solid over

time, hindering the flow. What then? This is similar to what happens in the body. We have to do the work and observe our body, to be our own kaitiaki. We have to know when we need rest because the body is exhausted. We have to change what we eat and drink because it no longer serves the body. The body is changing and moving in a higher vibrational universe. We are living in a new world and we don't yet realise it. The vibrations are higher and anything that does not support these vibrations will super conflict with the body. The body will respond when it's not happy and the responses are unavoidable until we address them.

How To Make a Wairākau with Kohekohe

1. Gather a handful of kohekohe leaves
2. Place the leaves in a medium-size pot and cover with a litre of water
3. Boil for 20 mins and allow to cool
4. Strain the rongoā, bottle it, label, then refrigerate (after you have your first glass).

When you have your first sip, take it slowly. If it's your first time drinking rongoā this may taste very foreign to you, so take it slowly. You can add more water to your glass so it's not so concentrated if you wish.

Once you have had your first few mouthfuls of kohekohe tonic, have another few mouthfuls the next day. Observe your body and how you feel. I recommend to drink a few mouthfuls and not a glass full because the taste

is very strong. Kohekohe rongoā is not suitable for hapu māmā or while breastfeeding.

For the month of August, we will have tasters of Kohekohe for you to experience in The Rongoā Mauri Studio, located at 211D Main Highway, Ōtaki. We will have Kohekohe wairākau available, bring in a jar or bottle for a takeaway. Open Saturdays and Sundays 10 am – 3pm.



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Mayor Holborow's report

BY JANET HOLBOROW - KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT MAYOR

The past month saw more important events. The launch of the annual Maramataka (calendar) was held at the Ramaroa building in Queen Elizabeth Park. This publication is more than just a calendar, and provides us with the opportunity to understand tikanga Māori and rongoā Māori (Māori traditions and healing/well-being). It encourages us to not only plant and harvest according to the lunar cycle, but let it guide everything we do.

Thanks to the Rongoā Collective, including Ōtaki members, for contributing their knowledge, aroha, creativity and talent to

this wonderful resource, which is available in Council libraries and service centres.

The launch was also an opportunity to commemorate Matariki: a time when we reflect on the past and look to the future. It's been wonderful to see a wealth of events and activities across the district, including the Matariki Ramaroa events put on by Māoriland and supported by Council. Council hosted a whānau event at Ōtaki Pool and craft sessions at the library. The Star Glaze Festival hosted by Ōtaki Pottery Club was supported through Council's Arts Sustainability Fund.

Another important event was a pōwhiri at Raukawa Marae to welcome Council's new Kaihau Hononga-ā-Iwi/General Manager Iwi Partnerships Hara Adams, followed by a pōwhiri in the Council Chambers where she was formally welcomed into the organisation.

Born and raised in Ōtaki, but with wide experience – most recently in Marlborough, – Hara brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role. As we strengthen and develop how we work in partnership with Mana Whenua across the district, it's wonderful to have this new position filled by someone with such a depth of experience

working with iwi, and in te reo Māori and tikanga Māori.

Another real pleasure was meeting Ōtaki Scholars Anish Subramaniam and Matthew Cranfield [third and fifth from right, respectively, below], who started their seven-week tour in Ōtaki. Matthew is the current Head Boy of Robert Gordon's College in Aberdeen, Scotland, and Anish was Head Boy last year. This reciprocal arrangement with Robert Gordon's College in Aberdeen is a long-standing tradition seeing top scholars from Aberdeen visiting Ōtaki, and an outstanding Ōtaki scholar given the opportunity to travel to Scotland.



Out and about with Shell

BY SHELLY WARWICK – ŌTAKI WARD COUNCILLOR

Well, with the shortest day and the Matariki new year there has been plenty of celebration and new year hopes and wishes in Ōtaki.

At the start of the month I joined my kids and other Ōtaki Surf Club clubbies for a midwinter swim at Ōtaki Beach. It was a beautiful calm day and, after the initial gasping at the cold, most of us spent quite a bit of time enjoying the water. It sure is a great way to have a reboot of the body for the new year.

I attended a Matariki first for myself: a really special morning on 13 July with my work colleagues from Raukawa Whānau Ora in Levin. An early morning bonfire and lighting of lanterns at Wehi Wehi Marae in Ōhau; sharing of kumara and waiata. It was the first time I had been part of this celebration to farewell those who have passed in the last year as Pōhutukawa comes to collect them from us and take their spirits to become stars, honour our ancestors and celebrate life-making plans for the year ahead. It was very special.

There is a lot of time at Council being spent on Plan Change 2 (PC2), which is legislation passed on to us to direct intensification of housing in the district. PC2 sets out some rules on how we must allow more housing around our transport hubs and town centres,

and we are in the process of considering this after it has been through an independent hearing panel. This is in conjunction with the fast-track consenting process – a hangover from Covid – which has seen central government take consent for development decisions away from Council, and give the consent decision-making to people outside of our Council. Both these central government directives have caused anxiety in the community and some frustration at a council level, as our staff actually have no power to change these things. Staff have gone above and beyond, though, to try and put recommendations forward that will protect us from wholesale development that would not enhance our communities, while also working within the confines of what our government are directing from afar. We have to grow, but our staff are doing all they can to ensure we grow well. A lot of the time they are not appreciated for all the hard work they do, but they are trying very hard. It is a very complicated process for councils to work through.

Mānawatia a Matariki whānau – Happy Māori New Year, Shelly Warwick

right:
Ōtaki Ward Councillor Shelly Warwick
(in stripes) with some OSLSC members



Ōtaki Community Board: out in the environs

BY JACKIE ELLIOTT – ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER

Winter is upon us and we have been lucky with so many brisk, sunny days and when the clouds lift off the Tararua Ranges, glimpses of brilliant snow. I've been a member of one of the region's oldest tramping clubs, the Levin Waiopahu Tramping Club, since childhood and it is hard to believe that way back in the 1930s regular interclub skiing races were held up on the slopes around Kime Hut above Ōtaki Gorge with club members coming here from all over the region year after year.

While the snow isn't as regular now, there are still many locals and visitors using this entrance to the Tararua Ranges. Vehicle access up Ōtaki Gorge Road for tramping, hunting and camping still ends at the Blue Bluff slips beyond Shields Flat.

We and KCDC staff have now hosted four information tours up to the slip site for councillors and council management.

Council staff are continuing to monitor the slips. They have now completed geotechnical surveys of the rest of the road. They have also regraded the small carpark at Shields Flat. From here, signs point to an emergency track up over private land above the slip. Take care up there: it is steep, slippery when wet, not suitable for children, and dogs are not permitted.

Your Community Board have also asked Council to investigate new future access to the forest park by partnering with government agencies to build new tracks and bridges as needed for trampers, bikers and those on the Te Araroa walk, and maybe even a much-needed replacement DOC campground on our side of the slip to replace the School Flat campground that provided 90% of the district's camping sites and is very much missed.

Meanwhile, here in town we are continuing

our work with the Emergency Management Office, WREMO, on our community emergency preparedness. We have just granted funds to provide solar-powered device-charger units with backup batteries for both of our emergency hubs, so people can recharge phones and reconnect with loved ones in an emergency.

We are also busy organising a 'Tsunami Evacuation Practice' for Ōtaki Beach residents as part of the National Shake-Out Week on 28 October. We hope to have as many locals, residents, families-whānau as possible to grab your 'Grab-bags' at the designated time and join in an evacuation, on foot, right up out of the Tsunami Zone via Tasman Road or Rangiuru Rd to a designated point where Community Board members will have a sausage-sizzle, prizes and give-aways for participants.

If you live or work in our Tsunami Zone

and are interested in learning how to keep safe after an earthquake, please come to the next planning meeting for this event on 5 August, 1pm – 2pm at the Gertrude Atmore Supper Room, Ōtaki Memorial Hall.

For Te Horo residents, your WREMO Community Emergency Exercise was Sunday 30 July, at the Te Horo Community Hall on School Road.

Remember, there is no Tsunami warning siren, the earthquake is your warning. 'If its long and strong – Get Gone' and evacuate to the safe zone until you hear that it is safe to return home.

In Ōtaki we have the best of the snow to the sea on our doorstep, these are a few ways we are trying to keep it safe and enjoyable for us all.

Ōtaki Update

August 2023



Māori Economic Development Fund supports Ōtaki businesses

Congratulations to the four recipients of the 2022/23 Māori Economic Development Fund.

This year funds were distributed to Hā Pai Wellness, the Hori Gallery, Māoriland, and OMG Natives - all Ōtaki-based businesses!

Māori businesses are important contributors to the Kāpiti district, and not just economically. As well as doing things like providing goods and services and employment, they add to the vibrancy and cultural richness of our community.

Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti chair Andre Baker says he is looking forward to seeing what each business does next.

“Each of these recipients is making a positive contribution to the Kāpiti district in their own ways and playing an important part in telling the Kāpiti story,” Mr Baker says.

► Visit kapiticoast.govt.nz/maori-ed-grant for more information.



Maramataka 2023 launched

The 2023/24 Maramataka is now available.

Supported by Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti, this year’s Maramataka was developed in partnership by the Rongoā Collective of the ĀRT (Āti Awa, Toa, Raukawa) Confederation.

Following on from last year’s it once again has a focus on whānau ora - family wellbeing. It highlights the importance of rongoā as the people’s medicine and its role in maintaining health, wellbeing and prosperity within iwi and community.

► Copies are available for purchase at Kāpiti Coast District Council service centres for \$15 each.



Landing a vision for Kāpiti together

It’s time to talk about the changes we want to see in our district and set aspirations for Kāpiti.

Over the next year your Councillors will work with communities to develop a vision for a sustainable future Kāpiti to guide Council planning now and over the next couple of decades.

There will be several ways to have your say on a variety of topics – in person at our mobile Vision Kāpiti engagement hub, at regular pop-ups at our libraries and pools, online and more.

► Vision Kāpiti will be live at: [haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/Vision-Kāpiti](https://haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/Vision-Kapiti) from 31 July.



Dune heroes holding back the sea

We’d like to give a shout out to the Waitohu Stream and Dune Care Group, whose mahi over more than 20 years has helped strengthen the dunes along the Waitohu Stream estuary at Ōtaki Beach.

Dunes are vital for coastal protection but are fragile. What makes them resilient is the vegetation that grows on them, and the Group has focused on re-establishing the foredune by planting spinifex and pīngao. They are now progressively planting the back dunes as well.

Council is proud to support the group, and recently donated several hundred spinifex plants for children and families to plant during Matariki.

► Learn more at: kapiticoast.govt.nz/environment

Young player wins golf title

BY FRANK NEILL

Riley Moy, who is 16 years old, is the new Ōtaki Golf Club's senior men's champion – probably the youngest in the club's history to win the title.

Riley won the championship when he defeated Mark Taratoa by seven shots with six holes to play on 23 July.

Riley played very well throughout the 36 holes, and particularly well when he scored an Eagle on the par four second hole of the match.

"Me and my wife [Cherie] are really proud of his win," Riley's father, Aaron Moy, says.

"He's a good golfer and is very passionate about it, and we support him all the way."

During the 23 July final "he played some really good golf.

"It was a really good win.

"From what I've heard he is the youngest player to win the title."

With the lowest handicap in the field, Riley was a favourite to win the championship.

To achieve it, however, he needed to beat a number of good players on this way to victory.

Riley's golfing prowess has seen him represent Wellington in junior golf, and he has also won a couple of tournaments in the Wellington region.

His next big competition will take place at the Age Grade National Golf Championships in Timaru next month.

Riley was not the only young golfer to perform well at the Ōtaki Golf Club's



championships on 23 July.

T J Marsh-Williams, who is still at school, won the Men's Junior A title.

Having two such good young players augurs well for the future of the club.

Nigel Walker won the Men's Intermediate

title and Brian Butler won the Men's Junior B championship.

The winners of the women's championships were: Silver, Fiona McBride; Bronze 1, Audrey Rigby; and Bronze 2, Nancy Andrews.



above left: Ōtaki Golf Club President Ian Wilson making the presentation to Riley Moy following his victory in the Senior Men's Championship; and right: Riley Moy tees off during the Ōtaki Golf Club's Championship on 23 July.

Purutaitama the football champs

BY FRANK NEILL

Ōtaki Purutaitama are the 2023 Horowhenua-Kāpiti Football champions.

Not only that, they are unbeaten, having chalked up 12 wins and one draw from their 13 matches. In that time they have scored 62 goals while conceding only seven.

They will be looking to remain unbeaten when they play second placed Kāpiti Coast United Hearts in their final match of the competition.

In their latest match Purutaitama defeated Kāpiti Coast United Sopranos 6-2 at Haruātai Park on 22 July after they led 4-0 at half time.

Travis Robertson scored a hat trick with the first goal of the match and Purutaitama's only second half goals.

Te Hau Cook, Chris Hawley-Stone and Zac Young also found the back of the net.

Purutaitama's only draw of the season came on 15 July in their match against Waikanae Rangers.

Te Hau Cook scored a goal in the 1-1 draw.

Victory came Ōtaki's way on 8 July in unusual and unfortunate circumstances.

The match was called off early after the outstanding Purutaitama defender Isaac Cant broke his leg.



above: Te Hau Cook takes another shot at goal during Ōtaki Purutaitama's 6-2 victory over Kāpiti Coast United Sopranos

At the time Ōtaki was leading the Waikanae Rangers 1-0, and the Waikanae team agreed that the result could stand.

Te Hau Cook was the goal scorer.

The Purus had a commanding 10-0 victory over Kāpiti Coast United on 1 July.

Two players chalked up hat tricks in the match. Chris Hawley-Stone found the back of the net four times, while Travis Robertson scored three goals.

Devon Yung scored two goals and Jumal Rautao scored one.

The 24 June match was postponed because of wet weather.

Following its promotion to Capital Football's women's first division, Ōtaki Kāeaea opened its account with a 4-3 win over Tawa on 25 June.

In its subsequent matches, it has discovered that the move up to division one is more of a challenge, losing its next four matches to Victoria University Units (2-0, on 2 July); Seatoun Sea Shanties (6-1, on 9 July); Wellington United Opals (3-0, on 16 July); and Miramar Rangers Firsts (8-0, on 23 July).

Ōtaki Titans win 11 gold medals

BY FRANK NEILL

The Ōtaki Titans swimming team picked up 11 gold medals at Swimming Wellington's Short Course Championships.

Phoebe Nelson won five gold medals, Imogen Waite picked up four and Noah Ireland-Spicer topped the podium twice at the event, held at the Coastlands Aquatic Centre from 23 to 25 June.

The Titans team collected a total of 39 medals at the event, when they added eight silver medals and 20 bronze medals to the 11 gold medals they won.

As well as his two gold medals, Noah also claimed three silver medals.

Kokoro Frost featured at the championships, winning three silver medals and four bronze medals.

Kokoro went on to represent Samoa at the

World Championship in Fukuoka, Japan. He competed in the 50 metres and 100 metres butterfly, the 100 metres backstroke and the 4x100 metres freestyle relay in the event, which ran from 21 July to 1 August.

Ruby Rassmussen won one silver medal and two bronze medals in the Wellington Short Course Championships.

Niamh O'Hara-Smith was the other Titan silver medalist, picking up one medal.

Lliah Eagar picked up five bronze medals and Greer Winter won three bronze medals.

Lara Wilkes and Jacob Winter each won two bronze medals, while Chelsea Holland and Sebastian Yates won one each.

The medal haul helped the Titans team of 19 swimmers finish in 10th place out of the 21 swimming clubs that scored points in

the championships.

Four Titans – Imogen Waite, Ace Van Noort, Noah Ireland-Spicer and Kokoro Frost – have qualified for the New Zealand Short Course championships, held at the Hawkes Bay Aquatic Centre in Hastings from 8 to 12 August.



above: the Ōtaki Titans team at the Wellington Short Course Championships with their medals and ribbons.

Rāhui are the 2023 rugby champions

BY FRANK NEILL



above: Rāhui Captain Morehu Connor-Phillips holds the Ramsbotham Cup aloft while the team celebrates.



above: the well-performed Regan Verney, who has played for the Chiefs and for Wellington, in action.

Rāhui are the 2023 Horowhenua-Kāpiti Rugby champions, winning the Ramsbotham Cup with a 23-22 victory over Shannon at Levin Domain on 29 July.

It took a last minute penalty by wing Alizay Roach for them to not only win the title, but keep their unbeaten record for the season.

Rāhui's captain Morehu Connor-Phillips summed up the encounter in his after-match speech when he said: "That was a nail-biter of a game."

It certainly was, with Rāhui holding a slender lead with around five minutes to go, only to see Shannon score a converted try and put them into lead in the match for the first time, with a narrow 22-20 advantage.

Just when it seemed that Shannon would break the hearts of Rāhui and its supporters, as they did in last year's semi-final, they conceded a penalty.

Despite being close to the sideline, Alizay stepped up and slotted it between the posts.

Rāhui led Shannon 11-9 at half time, thanks to a try by number 9 Leon Ellison and two penalties by Alizay. Alizay went on to add four penalties in the second half.

Ōtaki team's number 8 Joel Winterburn was named player of the day by the Horowhenua-Kāpiti Rugby Football Union.

Joel also chalked up a major milestone in the match, playing his 100th premier game for Rāhui.

Joel was not the only player who stood out.

In fact the whole team played outstandingly. A week earlier Rāhui secured their place in the final with a comfortable 56-23 victory over Paraparaumu.

Just as he did in the final, Joel once again emerged as the player of the match, and was awarded three most valuable player (MVP) points. Leighton Ralph, who was awarded two points, and Tainui Kaihau, who gained one point, also shone.

Five players scored tries in their semi-final victory.

Both Leighton and Alizay dotted down twice, while Alizay also kicked five conversions and two penalties.

Paora Connor-Phillips, Liam Tooman and Tainui also scored tries.

It was a much closer encounter when Rāhui played Paraparaumu in the final round robin match on 15 July, however.

The Ōtaki team emerged with a narrow 17-15 win.

Joel and Tainui scored tries and Alizay kicked two conversions and a penalty.

Sam Gibson was awarded three MVP points, Gibson two points and Vaianu Donaghy one point.

Rāhui had a big 71-19 victory over Levin College Old Boys on 1 July.

Eight players scored tries, with Morehu and Kapu Broughton-Winterburn dotting down twice.

Leon Ellison, Tama Cook, Joel, Tainui, Brodhi James and Alizay also scored tries, and Alizay kicked nine conversions and a penalty.



above: Alizay Roach kicking the penalty that won the Ramsbotham Cup for Rāhui.

below: On-form player Tainui Kaikau in action for Rāhui



below: the Rāhui team celebrating victory just after the referee blew the whistle for full time.





Gardening with

Garden tasks for August



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Flower garden

Plant rhododendrons, camellias, hellebores, azaleas and daphne while the weather is still cool.

Trim and shape early flowering camellias, such as the hardy, free-blooming sasanquas, once they've finished flowering.

Weed when weather allows and dig in plenty of compost and general garden fertiliser to prepare garden beds for spring planting.

Feed trees and shrubs with long-term controlled release fertiliser, sprinkle around drip line, then water in well.

Continue planting gladioli, dahlia and begonia tubers for summer flowering.

Sow favourite summer flowering seeds such as alyssum, sunflower, marigold, phlox, zinnia, chrysanthemum, gypsophila and Californian poppy. These can be planted out when the weather warms up.

Complete rose pruning in time for spring growth.

Viola, polyanthus, cineraria, cornflower, hollyhock and carnation seedlings can be planted now.

Protect your seedlings from rampaging slugs and snails, who love these grey, damp winter days, with Tui Quash, which is safe around pets and kids.

Fruit and vegetable garden

It's the ideal time to plant strawberries – getting them in early will not only give you more fruit, but you'll also get berries earlier. Add a clean layer of pea straw mulch around the plants to deter pests and to keep strawberries off the soil. Allow five plants per person to ensure there's enough delicious fruit to go around at harvest time.

Fertilise all fruit trees to ensure you get a bumper crop. Spread evenly over root zone and water in well – take care to keep fertiliser away from trunk to prevent damage to stem.

Plant your new citrus, blueberries, bramble berries and deciduous fruit trees.

Plant asparagus crowns directly into the garden – for best results plant in well-draining soil rich in organic matter.

Rhubarb can be planted this month – lift and divide established clumps.

Put seed potatoes in a tray and place in a sunny position for at least a month before planting. Plant out in the garden, in a large plastic pot or in a planter, in a warm, sheltered spot when the sprouts on the seed potatoes are 2 to 4 cm long.

Sow seeds of tomatoes, cabbage, celery, spring onion, silverbeet, spinach, onions, cucumbers, capsicum and lettuce in trays of seed raising mix ready for transplanting later.

Plant out seedlings of cabbage, spinach, lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower and silverbeet.

Lawn

Evenly apply lawn fertiliser to stimulate new growth. For mossy areas improve drainage by raking the area thoroughly and apply a solution of sulphate of iron (10g per square metre) to kill moss.

Second thoughts

Repot, tidy and feed indoor plants, hanging baskets and patio pots. You can also plant up new season's flowering annuals in containers.

Focus on growing artichokes

This veggie is not only yummy to eat, but makes an attractive addition to your ornamental garden with its silver foliage and bold architectural shape.

The globe artichoke is an herbaceous perennial producing flower buds for up to five years. It regularly replicates itself, thus ensuring a continuous supply of edible, green, sometimes purple-flushed, flower buds with many overlapping bracts.

The average bud weighs from 200 to 300g and, if not harvested, produces a striking, violet-blue flower head towering a metre or so above the plant.

Globe artichokes grow well from seed sown on site in spring (after danger of frost is over), but you can also create new plants from the rooted side shoots that the plant produces. Pick these from the parent plant when about 25cm high and give them a good-sized growing space – they need an area about a metre wide.

A deep-rooting plant, they grow best in free-draining, light, friable soil, and like a sunny, sheltered site. Globe artichokes are not frost-hardy, and during winter the tops die down – regeneration occurs in spring.

Although the plant withstands dry conditions, regular watering will ensure even plant growth. You'll get the best flower buds for eating if you give them plenty of moisture, as well as fertility.

Harvest the immature flower heads before the bracts open – usually 70-80 days after planting. Taking out the initial and main flower head encourages the plant to branch out

and form new flowers. You can continue harvesting through summer, but to maintain vigour and health you need to maintain soil moisture and fertility.

In autumn, cut the plant well back to three or four main strong shoots, and mulch for winter protection.

Seeds are available from specialist nurseries such as Kings Seeds, who stock three varieties.

'Green Globe Improved' has rich deep green buds, and is a vigorous, prolific plant which grows to a height of one metre. The plant will produce the first year from seed, but they are usually better when cut back and carried over to the second year.

'Imperial Star' produces buds early and is widely grown commercially. Usually around six to eight buds will form (about ten cm across) on a bushy plant.

'Cardoon' is closely related to the globe artichoke and is grown around the Mediterranean for its edible celery-like stalks. In New Zealand it is mainly grown as a magnificent foliage plant (great for flower arrangements).

Although mostly eaten fresh, globe artichokes can be frozen, pickled, brined or preserved in oil.

When preparing artichokes, you need to strip off the tough outer leaves, then rub with lemon juice to stop discolouration. Steam or boil for 20-25 minutes, or microwave for about seven, depending on size, until lower scales pull away easily from base. The fleshy base of the petals and the meaty heart are the most edible parts – they are simply delicious.

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the Ōtaki Mail

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

Leucadendron: winter powerhouse

Originating from South Africa, this eye-catching flowering shrub produces highly coloured yellow, orange or red terminal leaves surrounding chameleon-like flowers which change colour with the seasons. Most are medium-sized shrubs, around 1 to 2.5 m high, look great with other plants such as protea and bulbs, and are excellent for low-maintenance and water-wise gardens.

Leucadendron prefer a sunny, warm position with good drainage (sandy and volcanic soil is most suitable). They tend to fail in clay or alkaline soil, or soil with animal manure or those soils high in superphosphate (though they will tolerate poor soils). When planting choose an open area to avoid root damage and competition, and to allow good air circulation (planting too closely leads to spindly growth, poor flowering and eventual decline).

Lovers of coastal breezes (they dislike dry winds) they develop their best colour in mid to late winter, adding a dash of vivid colour and colourful bracts (which make great cut flowers).

Plant out after autumn rains when the soil is warm and moist, allowing your shrub to establish before winter, and to withstand dry periods the following summer. Before planting ensure the root ball is saturated, and remove planter bag or pot with minimal disturbance. Trim any broken roots and plant at the same level as in container. Dig a hole twice the diameter of root ball and firm in, watering once planted. As soil is placed in the hole, you'll need to tread firmly to bring soil in close contact with root

ball (make sure your plant is watered well until established if you're planting in a drier period). Plant with some general slow-release fertiliser, then every spring apply an organic-based fertiliser, such as blood and bone, at a handful per square metre as new growth begins. Do not allow plants to dry out, although once established they will survive long periods of drought (small, young plants are easier to establish than larger, more mature ones).

Applying mulch annually helps suppress weeds and keep soil cool (a mulch of stones is a good idea, compost may hold too much moisture). Feed annually in spring as new growth appears with a balanced fertiliser such as blood and bone.

Prune spent blooms to a healthy-looking bud after flowering to keep the shrub compact, and to promote the growth of next season's flowering wood – pruning leucadendron doesn't just give you a nice bunch of flowers but helps keep the plant nice and bushy.

'Safari Sunset,' a dense, erect shrub, is an all-time favourite with richly red bracts right through autumn and winter, and 'Jack Harre' is an easy-to-grow, smaller-sized shrub that forms delightful, yellow flowers followed by red bracts in late winter, lasting until spring. My favourite is 'Amy,' an erect, relatively vigorous leucadendron that develops rosy-red bracts in early autumn and gradually turns cream as spring approaches and the flowering cone develops. The leaves are small and leathery, dark green often with red edges (grows 1.5 x 1 m).



The Nurseryman of Ōtaki, by Don Watson



Crowds of keen home gardeners and horticulturists supported the launch of Don Watson's recently released *The Nurseryman of Ōtaki* at Watson's Garden, enjoying a fine afternoon tea, and purchasing the well-presented (colourful cover by Sal Criscillo, excellent index and contents page) book.

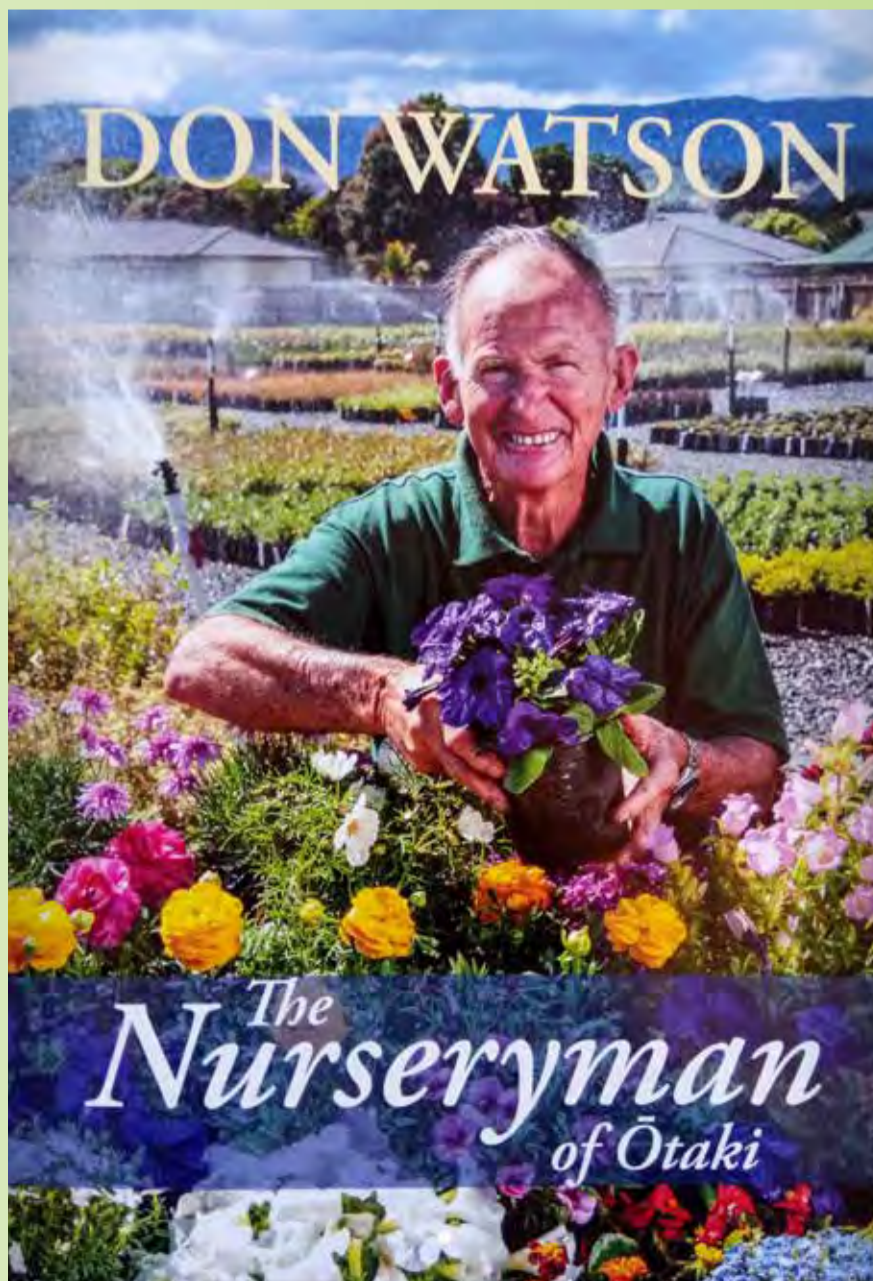
Watson's Garden has been operating at Bell Street, Ōtaki, since 1966 when the property was bought by Don and his family. During that time the business provided employment to many local families, with the nursery growing a wide range of plants including potted cyclamen, cut flowers and carnations (notably Ōtaki Pinks), vegetable seedlings, capsicum and tomatoes, and a variety of annuals for the use of Kāpiti Coast District Council.

In *The Nurseryman of Ōtaki*, Don (senior) follows the origins of the Watson family on the Kāpiti Coast from the beginning, travelling by ship to New Zealand (1915) to more recent years, the acquisition of the Lethbridge land, and the development of a new 8.1-hectare commercial nursery (2007) to replace the smaller Bell Street site.

Don recounts vivid tales of growing up in Ōtaki in a lively memoir-style story, of having fun and making a living amongst a cast of entertaining characters including Don's 'rough diamond' father. There is plenty of hunting, fishing, diving and shell-collecting (Don was president of the Wellington Shell Club, 1991 – 2000).

However, life was not always good, there were plenty of knockbacks and hard times, but Don's humour, energy and down-to-earth attitude shine in *The Nurseryman of Ōtaki*. Perhaps it is these traits that have ensured he is still going strong in his eighties, "with a spring in his step and a twinkle in his eye."

The Nurseryman of Ōtaki (Steele Roberts Aotearoa Publishers) is available at Watson's Garden, 17 Bell Street, Ōtaki, and Books & Co, 216 Old SH1, Ōtaki.



Ōtaki – Education Town

Te Kōhanga Reo o Raukawa: Encouraging confidence through a Māori lens

Te Kōhanga Reo o Raukawa is a nurturing environment for tamariki aged 0–6 to learn and develop fully immersed in te reo Māori through waiata (songs), pūrākau (stories), and whanaungatanga (connection and community).

This fully immersive space normalises kaupapa Māori, which encourages confidence through a Māori lens.

“When our tamariki transition from Te Kōhanga Reo o Raukawa to kura (school), they are ready to take on their next chapter with confidence,” Jade Ratapu says. Jade is the kaiwhakahaere (Head Teacher) of the kōhanga.

“We focus on grounding our tamariki in knowing who they are and where they come from.

“That is a fundamental part of kōhanga and we believe it is foundational to the life our tamariki lead in the future.

“Our approach is about giving them the freedom to express who they are as tamariki,” Jade says.

“Another thing that makes us special is whānau decision-making.

“We are whānau run, which means the kōhanga committee is made up of whānau who take collective responsibility for ensuring our vision, mission and values are expressed in all that we do.

“This also creates a system where everyone can lean-in and support each other with the various skills and expertise we have in our whānau.

“We are a very tight-knit whānau, and a lot of our parents were also students here.

“They had the privilege of learning from the kuia in the past and they wanted the same opportunity for their tamariki too, which is awesome,” Jade says.

“With the kōhanga located on Te Pou o Tainui Marae, it allows for a deeper connection, for the tamariki to feel closer to te ao Māori.

“Our tamariki get to grow up on the marae. This is another way they build their confidence and sense of belonging in the world,” Jade says.

Jade also notes the importance of te reo Māori, which is spoken proficiently by all staff at the kōhanga.

“We are all on our own paths in our reo journey and we take a lot of pride in upholding a fully immersive te reo Māori environment with our tamariki.

“We also recognise the importance of whānau upholding te reo Māori in the home as well, and to support our whānau with this we recently held a whānau language planning day.”

Te Kōhanga Reo o Raukawa currently has 25 tamariki and six kaiako who are passionate about investing in the next generation.

“All of our kaiako have come through kōhanga and then kura Māori (Māori-language immersion schools) followed by wharekura (intermediate and secondary).

“In fact, some of us went to school together and studied at Te Wānanga o Raukawa.”

Another important part of a day at kōhanga is wā karakia, where tamariki hear pūrākau (stories) which re-connect them to their history, sing waiata and have a range of karakia that they all share together.

When Jade spoke to the *Ōtaki Mail*, the kōhanga reo was planning its Matariki night for 13 July.

This gave tamariki an opportunity to showcase some kapahaka to their whānau, share kai together, and write down their hopes and dreams for the year ahead.

Te Kōhanga Reo o Raukawa was established in 1982 by a group of parents including KK Blackler, Horiana Hakaraia, Gaels Raika and Retitia (Betty) Raureti.

It was the first kōhanga reo in Ōtaki and one of the first five in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Te Kōhanga Reo o Raukawa was originally based at Raukawa Marae and was relocated three times before settling at Te Pou o Tainui Marae, where the kōhanga has been located since, making it the only kōhanga in Ōtaki located on a marae.



Ōtaki College News

August 2023

www.otakicollege.school.nz

From Principal Andy Fraser

Farewell to Deputy Principal, Marion Lumley

During the first week of term it was our sad task to farewell Marion Lumley [pictured below] after 24 years' service to the College. We celebrated her contribution, – both as a teacher and, more latterly, as a member of the Senior Leadership team – at the student assembly on Monday and at a Friday afternoon staff function. In addition to her teaching and management successes, her development of the College's e-learning capacity was highly praised. Her kindness, patience and willingness to give freely of her time to support students, staff and whānau, were universally acknowledged. I would like to wish Marion the very best as she begins the next chapter of her life. She will be sadly missed.

Matariki Night Market

My sincere thanks goes out to the Ōtaki community for the amazing support for our inaugural Matariki Night Market. This was a wonderful evening, with a fantastic atmosphere, despite it being a chilly night. The feedback from stall-holders, entertainers and general public strongly suggests that we will endeavour to make this a yearly event upon our Matariki New Year.

Special thanks goes out to our sponsors for their kindness and generosity:

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These events do not just happen and they require a large number of hours put in by dedicated people. I would like to acknowledge Jo Andrews for establishing the Night Market concept and her organising committee – Becs Lange, Cam Butler, Fleur Dal Din, Sandra Vidulich, Caii-Michele Te Ao Mārama and Anje Glindemann – together with all the other people who contributed in so many ways.

Contributing Schools

The beginning of Term 3 is always an exciting one as we host students from our contributing schools who will be enrolling for 2024. This is always a great opportunity to showcase the College during a school day and this year we were also able to follow this up with a further open evening for whānau and students. I look forward to the many new faces in the College in 2024 and would like to take this opportunity to remind whānau that if they have any further queries around enrolling, to please contact either myself, or the office staff.

Otaki Scholars

The tour of our 79th and 80th Otaki Scholars, Anish Subramaniam and Matthew Cranfield [pictured middle right] commenced on Sunday 16 July. Both Anish and Matthew have said that their time in Ōtaki has been absolutely outstanding and both young men have been overwhelmed by the openness and friendliness of everyone to date. My sincere thanks to Rupene Waaka and Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki for the organisation of yet another very memorable pōwhiri to open the tour in Ōtaki and Aotearoa New Zealand. A highlight of the Scholars' trip was their overnight stay on Kāpiti Island where they were able to encounter a kiwi on their kiwi spotting expedition. Once again the College would like to thank John Barrett and Kāpiti Island Nature Tours for sponsoring the Scholars and two senior students on this trip. Another enjoyable part of their time on the Kāpiti Coast was an afternoon-tea with our Mayor, Janet Holborow. Both young men felt very honoured by this occasion. They departed on Sunday 23 July for Otago Boys' High School and over the next five weeks will visit St Andrew's College, Marlborough Boys' College, Scots College, Whanganui Collegiate, Napier Boys' High School, Rotorua Boys' High School, finishing with St Kentigern College in Auckland.

Thank you again to the Ōtaki community who continue to embrace the Otaki Scholar tradition. In Week 5 we will commence the selection process for our Everiss Scholar, who will depart for Scotland in January 2024.

Exciting News – Powercut through to the top 30 in the 2023 Smokefreerockquest

As I write, Powercut [pictured below], our Yr 11/12 band of Freddy Sayer, Logan Hughes, Pierre Lange-Gerrard, and Ethan Kyle have just heard that they have made it through to the top 30. These 30 acts will be shortlisted by a panel to perform live

at the National finals in Auckland. In addition to this they have won the opportunity to record in a professional studio and they will receive media mentoring. This is a huge success and my sincerest congratulations go to the band, whether or not they make it to Auckland!



Kia ora, Ōtaki College whānau

In follow-up to our very successful inaugural Matariki Night Market, we would like to pass on our sincere thanks for the overwhelming support that was given by our community, who, despite the cold and possibility of rain, arrived in large numbers to enjoy the occasion. Kei runga noa atu koutou!

So much work went on behind the scenes and I want to pass on a huge thanks to all involved, no matter how big or small your contribution was, as all your efforts made things happen! As a result of the community support and feedback, the organising team are committed to commence planning for next year's event. Its exciting to say that The Ōtaki College Matariki Night Market will continue as an annual event. Yet another event the College can be proud of!

Our aim is to continue to make this a bigger and better event, so if you have any constructive feed back we are open to ideas for next year. Please could you email any ideas or thoughts to me on the following email address within the next few days.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Ngā Mihi, Jo Andrews, pp Matariki Night Market team.

jojowyeth@gmail.com.

Zero Waste Ōtaki: Wood recycling update

BY JO LYNCH

Each month two big truckloads of sound used timber or construction off-cuts are delivered to ZWŌ by a Wellington company called Woods Waste. Each load is usually snapped up because of its high quality.

Wood Waste is the only skip-hire business in the region to take the trouble to sort the waste from their skips at their own transfer stations (at Kaiwharawhara and Otaihanga) where the predominantly construction material is sorted and put aside for recycling. At the moment all the usable timber from Otaihanga goes to ZWŌ, which is the only wood recycling organisation in the region.

Ruth Clarke, who at the time worked for KCDC, brokered this great arrangement not long after ZWŌ was established. According to government and council documents, construction and demolition waste makes up 40–50% of New Zealand's total waste



going to landfill. Each home constructed generates an average of four tonnes of waste, and renovation adds much more. Mike Wilde from Woods Waste says that, while delivering the waste to Ōtaki takes bit of time and effort, ZWŌ is a great outlet and they'd rather put the material to good use. "It is so well supported by the community, that it is worth it," Mike says.

Within the next year, a regionally based organisation, called the Sustainability Trust, is expected to open a resource-recovery site in Otaihanga, just next door to Woods Waste, but Mike says that he still expects to keep supplying us at ZWŌ.

As usual, there have been plenty of happy customers. Recently Dave and Nolan picked up a load of weatherboard which, some time ago, came off the Paraparaumu Memorial Hall. They plan to use the wood to reclad

their shed. Quite a few doors have come in – and gone out – and Rose, who maintains the ZWŌ Facebook page, has found a door sill for a customer. There's also been a good supply of the popular ply, and bags of firewood have gone out as soon as they have been cut.

Some of the huge load of pile off-cuts from the wānanga, which are copper treated (no arsenic) remain in a heap at the edge of the site. Committee members plan to get a working bee together so they can use some of the shorter piles to create a good edge between the planted bund and the carpark. Planting the bund is still a work in progress. A regular customer, Dave, recently dropped off several cabbage trees and kanuka plants, which have been planted on the bund. All seedlings for the bund are welcome.



Energise Ōtaki: Free trees-to-be, repairs ease, national glories

BY EMILY MCDOWELL

Money does grow on trees, and we're giving it away. Starting on 2 August.

Energise Ōtaki is hosting a public meeting to launch our new project, Ōtaki Carbon Forests.

As part of a plan to help Ōtaki become 'carbon neutral' by 2032, we will be getting more trees in the ground and climate-crisis-causing carbon emissions out of the air.

Why grow (more) forest here? Forests benefit everything alive everywhere (our emissions adding to the global total; every reduction counts). It'll be good for local biodiversity of the flora, fauna and fungi kind. And for the human kind: we're proposing to do the mahi/work then share 'carbon credits' income with landowners, with Energise Ōtaki's portion topping up the Whakahiko Ōtaki–Energise Ōtaki Fund. Which supports local energy projects.

Please join us for experts' talks on sequestration, planting natives and setting up a 'carbon forest', followed by supper and a native seedlings give-away.

On 26 August (details online) we'll host a

community planting session, thanks to support from Winstones Aggregates and Friends of the Ōtaki River.



above: Stephen and Karen Whitton from Talisman Nursery advise Di Buchan (centre) on native seedlings to give away at Ōtaki Carbon Forests' public meeting

Interested in planting, on your land or along the River? Call Di Buchan: 027 683 0213.

A regular question here is 'When's the next Ōtaki Repair Café?'. See below!

This Café, volunteers will host workshops on sharpening garden tools; the basics of sewing repairs (think buttons, hems, holes) and what to check when your electrical goods don't work as expected (beyond 'Is it switched on at the wall?' 'Yes, obviously. Oh, hold on...').

Please email otaki.repaircafe@gmail.com with details of what you'd like mended. Koha appreciated.

This month Energise Ōtaki and the māra kai/food gardens of Māoriland and Ōtaki College feature in a 350 Aotearoa national campaign, called 'We Can Produce Our Own Power'. Yes we can!

Ōtaki Carbon Forests public meeting: 7pm, Wednesday 2 August, at the Rotary Lounge.

Ōtaki Repair Café: 10am – 2pm, Sunday 27 August, Ōtaki Memorial Hall.



Buzz Club celebrates 10th anniversary

BY FRANK NEILL

The Buzz Club Ōtaki, which provides mentoring, education and support for bee-keepers, celebrated its 10th anniversary at Waitohu School on 21 June.

A very popular club, it had 90 members at the end of the last financial year.

"Everybody in the club is passionate about bees and what they can do for the environment," the club's President, Mike Noon, says.

The environment relies on bees for pollination, making them critical not just for the natural environment but also for human food systems.

Bees are, however, at the mercy of the Varroa Mite (also called the destroyer). These mites attack and kill hives, unless people intervene.

"If it weren't for people keeping bees, there would be no bees because they do not survive on their own without people looking after them," Mike says.

Because of this, bee-keepers are playing a very important role in environmental protection.

The Buzz Club Ōtaki's main role is mentoring and educating bee-keepers and sharing what is happening in the world of keeping bees.

"It's a great hobby," Mike says.

"You get beautiful honey and you get beautiful wax.

"And if you get involved with bees, you will get really passionate about them."

Bees are fascinating. There is the Queen Bee, who is the head of the hive, the drones, whose main role is to impregnate the Queen Bee, and the workers.

The workers, Mike says "are incredibly hard working."

They will travel up to 3km from the hive and they fly a total of 120km to get a pound (450gm) of honey.

The club was formed after Frances Beech, who is now the club's Patron, called a meeting for people interested in bee-keeping.

"She expected about a dozen people to come, but 120 people turned up," Mike says.

With members from Waikanae to Levin, the club has been going strong ever since.

It meets on the third Wednesday of every month, at Waitohu School, with a good feature speaker.

"The club is incredibly appreciative of Waitohu School for allowing us to meet as a community club at the school," Mike says.

"We are always keen to get new members, whether they have bees already or whether they are looking to get into bees.

"Even if you don't have bees, it's still really worthwhile joining the club."

Mike also notes that people can have bee

hives whether they live in a rural area or in a suburban area.

For more information, or to join the club, people can phone the club's secretary



above: Buzz Club Ōtaki's President Mike Noon at work on his hives.

Thomas Reisinger on 021 159 2794, or visit the Buzz Club Ōtaki Facebook page, or email thebuzzclubotaki@gmail.com.

The annual subscription is \$25.



above: Buzz Club Ōtaki's Patron Frances Beech cutting the 10th birthday cakes, watched by committee member Lynne Blair, who made the cakes.

New Capital Connection carriages enter service 31 July

The Capital Connection will offer passengers a smoother ride between Palmerston North and Wellington, as newly refurbished carriages come into operation.

KiwiRail General Manager Scenic Journeys and Commuter Rail Tracey Goodall says KiwiRail is proud to introduce the new carriages on 31 July, which will continue being used until new hybrid trains arrive by the end of the decade.

“The existing Capital Connection carriages are old and near the end of their workable lives. With Government investment, KiwiRail has been able to fully refurbish some former Auckland Transport carriages, completely replacing and updating the interiors and refurbishing the wheel units.

“We’ve kept the well-recognised blue-on-blue colour scheme, but that’s where the similarity ends. The new carriages have improved safety features and the wheel units will offer a more comfortable ride.”

“The service will continue to have five passenger carriages, a generator car and a café car – which will now be able to serve barista coffee.

“We’re currently refurbishing more carriages at our Hutt workshops, and intend to add a sixth passenger carriage to the train later this year. On some days the existing Capital Connection can be at capacity, so an extra carriage will support passenger growth.”

Ms Goodall says, to meet the door heights of the new carriages, KiwiRail has also been working to raise the Palmerston North, Levin, Ōtaki and Shannon station platforms.

Horizons Regional Council Chair Rachel Keedwell says the investment from central government reflects its commitment,

matched by many other parties, to improve services between Palmerston North and Wellington.

“We are in full support of this upgrade to the Capital Connection, and recognise it is just the first step towards the larger goal of improving passenger rail services for our region – but an important one so we can get there. We are looking forward to the significant benefits yet to come for both passengers due to increased frequency of services, and the environment with the introduction of hybrid trains in a few years.”

Greater Wellington Transport Chair Thomas Nash says the refurbished carriages of the train service, long the standard bearer for reliable inter-regional passenger service, are a welcome temporary introduction.

“While work continues to secure the new hybrid trains, I’m pleased commuters, visitors to the region and locals will be travelling regionally in safer trains and in even greater comfort.”

Refurbishing 11 carriages for the Capital Connection Refurbishment Project is funded by a \$26 million dollar investment through the Government’s NZ Upgrade Programme.

A Government contribution towards Horizons and Greater Wellington Regional Councils’ investments in new hybrid trains was made through Budget 2023.



pictured above, from left:
MP Julie Anne Genter,
MP Teanau Tuiono, MP Tangi Utikere,
Cr Justin Tamihana & MP Terisa Ngobi



No8 Wire Workshops

No8 Wire is Kāpiti Coast District Council’s annual programme of free and affordable events to encourage community resilience, DIY resourcefulness and environmental responsibility through fun, hands-on events, and workshops.

These are a great way to meet new people, discover new places and learn practical ways to reduce environmental impacts. Join us for one, two, three or more of what we have planned for you.

Doing well in a disaster

Wednesday 2 August, 10am – 11am
Ōtaki Memorial Hall, Supper Room

Wednesday 2 August, 1.30pm – 2.30pm
Paraparaumu Library

Free event brought to you by the Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office

Make your own planter box

Saturday 5 August, 10am – 12 noon
Māoriland Hub, Ōtaki
Free event

My Walk in Wardrobe

Saturday 12 August, 10am – 2pm
Waikanae Memorial Hall
Gold coin entry

Strong seedlings, strong plants

Sunday 13 August, 10am – 11am
Ōtaki College
Free event

Changing Gears: What’s next for you?

Friday 25 August, 9.30am – 11.30am
Paraparaumu Library
Ticketed event: \$5 + admin fee, morning tea included

Organic regulation – don’t panic go organic

Thursday 31 August, 11am – 12.30pm
Paraparaumu Library Meeting Room
Free event brought to you by the Ministry for Primary Industries

Design your own Kowhaiwhai

Saturday 16 September, 10am – 3pm
Whare Whakairo, Tasman Road, Ōtaki
Ticketed event: \$45.00 + admin fee to cover cost of materials

Bring a plate of kai to share

► Visit [kapiticoast.govt.nz/no8wire](https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/no8wire) to find out more



ABC: Arts, Books Corner

Poker, poverty, and the power of storytelling: 2023 Ngaio Marsh Award longlist reveals local author Renée, again.

A poker-playing sleuth, a poet's gritty take on life on Aotearoa's poverty line, a rural mystery entwined with heart-wrenching exploration of dementia, and the long-awaited return of a master of neo-noir are among the diverse tales named today on the longlist for the 2023 Ngaio Marsh Award for Best Novel – local author Renée's included.

Now in their fourteenth season, the Ngaio Marsh Awards celebrate excellence in New Zealand crime, mystery, and thriller writing. They are named for Dame Ngaio Marsh, one of the Queens of Crime of the Golden Age of Detective Fiction, who penned bestselling mysteries that entertained millions of global readers from her home in the Cashmere Hills. "I'd like to think Dame Ngaio would be proud of how our modern Kiwi storytellers are continuing her literary legacy, bringing fresh perspectives and a cool mix of fascinating tales to one of the world's most popular storytelling forms," says awards founder Craig Sisterson. "In recent years we seem to be going through our own golden age, with our local writers offering a treasure trove of terrific stories for readers at home and all over the world."

The longlist for the 2023 Ngaio Marsh Award for Best Novel includes a mix of past winners and finalists, several first-time entrants and new voices, and the long-awaited return of one of the leading lights of the early 2000s New Zealand literary scene. "In crime and thriller writing it's natural for authors to make it really tough on their characters," says Sisterson, "but our entrants made it tough on our judges too. This year's longlist is a wonderful showcase of Kiwi creativity, with a great range of stories

that explore some deep and very important issues in among the page-turning intrigue and thrills."

Blood Matters, by Renée, is available from Books & Co, 216 Old SH1.



Kāpiti Concert Orchestra, Wellington Regional Community Awards finalist



above: KCO with flute soloist Bridget Douglas and resident conductor Donald Armstrong in the foreground

The Kāpiti Concert Orchestra was delighted to be chosen as a finalist in the 2023 Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards for Kāpiti in the Arts and Culture category.

Comprising five categories, the Community Awards recognise the valuable contribution that volunteers make to their organisations and the wider community.

KCO Committee Chairperson Linda Simmons said, "Being a finalist is welcome recognition of what the orchestra's small committee has achieved in presenting high-quality performances in the region each year. As all volunteer and community groups will know, it takes a dedicated team to tackle many different aspects of organising events and maintaining a high community profile". For the next KCO concert – 19 August at Te Raukura ki Kāpiti – the programme is dance focussed and will appeal to all ages, with music ranging from Prokofiev's ballet "Romeo and Juliet" to the contemporary Irish classic "Lord of the Dance". Admission will be free for children under 12.

The Kāpiti Concert Orchestra was formed by noted composer and musician Kenneth Young when he was a resident of the Kāpiti Coast. Next year the orchestra will celebrate its 20th birthday with a concert that will feature a work specially commissioned to mark the occasion.

Wāhine Ora Research Awards

Sponsored by
Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga and New
Horizons for Women: Hine Kahukura



Two awards of \$10,000 each that aims to support research that benefits Māori women, girls and/or whānau in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Visit www.newhorizonsforwomen.org.nz to apply.
Applications are open online only
17th July - 16th August 2023

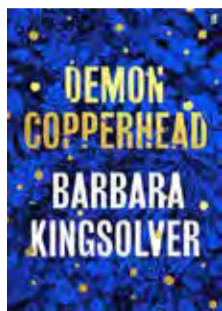


Ōtaki Foodbank Inc.
Annual General Meeting
22 August 2023, 1pm
43 Main Street, Ōtaki
All Welcome

Ngā arotakenga mai i Te Whare Whakamatai o Ōtaki



Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver



Finally she's written a damn good book! Barbara Kingsolver's 'Demon Copperhead' is a novel about Demon's life amidst the poverty of the Appalachian Mountains: poverty, welfare, drugs and football. It's a big read. Underneath it's about having minimal choices in life, believing in yourself, family (or lack of it) and the huge influx of Oxytocin by the drug companies into Virginia (factual). It's a rollercoaster of a book and mostly downhill—a must-read.

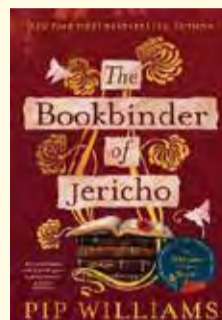
The Warm Sun on My Face by Adrienne Simpson and Trevor Auger



As we are celebrating women in sport with the FIFA Women's World Cup, I thought it might be nice to highlight some of our great collection of books celebrating New Zealand women and their sporting achievements.

'The Warm Sun on My Face' comprehensively details not only the history of women's cricket in New Zealand since the 1800's, and more recently our World Cup success, but also describes the individual stories of our women's cricket players throughout the years. If you are a cricket fan, this book should keep you busy for a while!

The Bookbinder of Jericho by Pip Williams



This is a wonderful novel about knowledge—who creates it, who gets to learn it, and how it is used. Peggy and Maude are twin sisters who work in the bindery at Oxford University Press in Jericho. Peggy is intelligent and ambitious and dreams of studying at Oxford University, but for most of her life she has been told her job is to bind the books, not read them. Maude, meanwhile, wants nothing more than what she has. Set during WWI, this novel is a lovely sequel to 'The Dictionary of Lost Words'.

Tales of Polynesia illustrated by Yiling Changues



If you are a fan of folklore, myths, and legends – here is a book that has a Polynesian flavour to it! 'Tales of Polynesia' is a collection of traditional stories from Hawai'i, New Zealand, Tahiti, and Samoa. In this book the tales are categorised under the headings of Tricksters, Creatures of Earth and Sea, Life and Death, and Family.

These stories were collected, translated, and published in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and have been paired up with contemporary illustrations from Yiling Changues. Come and check out these folktales now!

Pop in and see us or find us online

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We know it's tempting to treat your furry friend every time they give you those hard to resist puppy dog eyes – but remember those extra treats could be leading them down a path to poor health.

To help determine if your pet may be at risk of obesity here are a few questions to consider.

- Is it difficult to feel your pet's ribs?
- Does your pet have little or no defined waist?
- Does your pet have constant access to food and snacks?
- Does your pet beg for more food after feeding?
- Do you ever skip playing or exercising your pet?

If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, it might be time to bring your furry friend in for a **FREE** weight consult with one of our nurses. Together, we can tailor a weight loss program and help them reach and maintain their optimal body weight.



www.otakivets.nz
 06 364 6941
otaki.contact@tvgn.co.nz
 269 Mill road, Otaki, 5512



OTAKI IN THE NEWS ~ 1900s

Selected from early New Zealand newspapers, as written and published at that time.

January 9

The successful tenderer for the erection of the Otaki Bridge is Mr. E. J. T. Price. The amount of the tender is £4500, and the work is to be commenced immediately. The bridge will have a span of 893 ft, and will cross the river on the main road, half a mile south of the Otaki railway station.

January 9

The election for the vacant seat of Otaki caused by the death of the late Mr H. A. Field, resulted in the return of Mr W.H. Field, deceased's brother, the numbers being — W. H. Field 1755 ; C. B. Morrison, 1592 ; majority for Field, 163. Mr Field is a Government supporter.

January 10

The Cottage Hospital at Otaki, which is controlled by the District Hospital Board, at present contains four patients. Christmas was celebrated at the Hospital according to time-honoured custom, and each patient received a gift. On the 27th ult. the first concert was held in the building, at which Dr. Mason recited Kipling's now famous poem, "The Absent-minded Beggar," and a collection made for the Transvaal War Fund realised £7.

The Chairman of the District Hospital Board has received a cheque for £28 10s, representing money which had been contributed by Otaki people for the purpose of placing in the Otaki Cottage Hospital a memorial to the late Miss Annie Gillies, who was drowned in crossing the Otaki River in March, 1897. The memorial will probably take the form of a piano, which will be of great use in the institution.

January 17

A sad affair took place at Otaki on the 3rd

of the month. Frank, the eight-year-old son of a flax-cutter named Clifford Wilson, went with his father to a camp in the neighborhood. He there asked leave to go eel-fishing, which was granted. The boy then wandered away from the camp, and was never seen again alive. The neighborhood abounds in lakes, watercourses and swamps, and an alarm was raised at once; large search parties being organised by the police and neighbors. Nothing was found, however, that might furnish a clue to his fate until Wednesday mornings last, when George Jenkins, a shepherd, in the employ of Mr. Simcox, discovered a body floating down in Lake Takapau, which on being drawn ashore proved to be that of the missing lad. The lake is four miles from where he was last seen alive.

January 20

The Otaki Mail records the instance of a well-known sheep farmer who lost £200 through selling his wool for 71/2d the day before the Wellington sale, where it brought 10d.

February 13

Another old and well-known settler passed away on Sunday at Otaki in the person of Frederic Bright, who arrived in Wellington in the ship Indian Queen in the year 1857. He was born in Essex, England, in 1833. On his arrival in New Zealand he worked for some time in Wellington and on the Collingwood diggings. In 1863 he commenced trading in live stock with Otago, and he was afterwards engaged in stock-buying on the West Coast of the North Island for Mr James Gear. For the last twenty-five years he has lived in Otaki and was a successful settler. He was exceedingly popular among both Europeans and Maoris, and had quite a reputation for his many acts of kindness to fellow-residents. He leaves a widow, two sons and three daughters. His two sons, Messrs Horton and Arthur Bright, have for some time managed the farms of their late father. The eldest daughter is Mrs E.T. Daniel, of this city; the second is Mrs Ferguson, of Otaki, and he youngest is the wife of Mr Byron Brown, of Otaki. Mr Bright was part owner of the barque Weathers-field

March 30

At the statutory annual meeting of the

Wellington Hospital Board, the Chairman stated that Dr. Macgregor has described the Otaki Hospital as a model institution of its kind. It was the best of the small hospitals in the colony. Additions were about to be made to the accommodation.

June 7 Foxton v Raukawa

The Raukawa (Otaki) Club journeyed to Levin on Saturday last, in accordance with the above fixture. They waited until three o'clock (half an hour later than the time appointed for starting play), but their opponents did not appear. The referee (Mr McIntyre) ordered the Raukawas to kick off, and gave them the game by default. However, the Foxton team drove up only a few minutes afterwards, and were naturally very much disappointed. Mr McIntyre asked the Raukawas to give Foxton a game after their long journey over a very bad road, but the majority of the local Club, who had gone to Wereroa to witness the other important match, declined to give way. The Raukawa team were quite within their rights, but it was rather "hard lines" for the Foxton team.

December 1

A memorial of Mrs James McWilliam, the wife of the Maori missionary stationed at Otaki, who died last year, has been erected in Main Street, Otaki, and will shortly be unveiled by the Bishop of Wellington. The memorial, which is from a design by Messrs Clere and Swann, has taken the shape of a public clock. The deceased lady was much esteemed locally, having for the last quarter of a century been a leader in all good works, especially among the Maoris.

December 27

An instance of the fertility of Otaki land is to be seen in the farm of Mr James Cootes, where a nine-acre paddock is carrying seventy sheep, ten cattle, one horse and fourteen geese, and the grass is still plentiful.

December 29

Otaki township, according to the local paper, is becoming very busy now. The flaxmill is going at "top", the supply to the creamery is increasing daily, haymaking and other work of the season is progressing merrily — in fact, visitors often remark that settlers do not appear to have time for anything but steady hard work.

Māori Economic Development Fund recipients announced

Four Kāpiti businesses have been successful in their applications to the 2022/23 round of the Māori Economic Development Fund.

The contestable Fund was established in 2013 by the Kāpiti Coast District Council and Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti to support whānau, hapū, iwi and mātāwaka in Kāpiti to develop their business or social enterprise. This year \$68,000 was available.

Convenor of the Fund's assessment panel Kim Tahiwī says this year's successful applicants showed the positive outcomes that can be achieved when fusing a Te Ao Māori perspective with a sustainable business model.

"It has enabled them to achieve financial success as well as provide social well-being to the community," Ms Tahiwī says.

"It's great to see these pakihi (businesses) growing and developing, and to provide some assistance to them as they continue on their journeys.

"Māori businesses are important contributors to the Kāpiti district, and not just economically. As well as doing things like providing goods and services and employment, they add to the vibrancy and cultural richness of our community.

"The grants are not enormous sums of money but will help the recipients take some important steps forward and continue to be innovative."

Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti Chair Andre Baker says he is looking forward to seeing what each business does next.

"Being in business is not easy for anyone, so I commend them all for their mahi and dedication," Mr Baker says.

"Each of these recipients is making a positive contribution to the Kāpiti district in their own ways and playing an important part in telling the Kāpiti story.

"Māoriland is Ōtaki-based but recognised internationally; the Hori Gallery is making waves in art, fashion and hospitality; Hā Pai Wellness is providing invaluable hauora services; and Ōtaki Mānuka Growers are growing native plants to help save our world."

The 2022/23 recipients are:

- Ha Pai Wellness
- Hori Gallery Ltd – Te Whare Toi o Hori
- Māoriland
- Ōtaki Manuka Growers

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Media Muse

By Manakau's Tom Frewen

The local daily rag, The Lost Post — “lost” because it has absolutely lost its way as a newspaper and is now reduced to a life-support system for its sudoku and crossword puzzles and death notices.

Gone with its new editor were the newspapers daily editorial leaders. In her five months as editor Caitlin Cherry erased ‘Dominion’ from the masthead — removing one more reminder of the country’s brutal colonial past — and capped the potential maximum score in the trivia quiz to two or maybe three.

An odd thing, the editorial leader is an institutional expression of opinion peculiar to newspapers and magazines. Not found in broadcast media, editorial leaders are based on a tradition going back centuries. They derive their authority from their publication’s record for accuracy in reporting and sound judgment, usually conservative, in its social and political commentary. *The Times*, in London, for instance, was known as ‘The Thunderer’ for the force and influence of its editorial leaders.

Giving voice to an opinion, editorial leaders are essential for any publication that aims to hold the powerful to account, the self-proclaimed noble purpose of the ‘fourth estate’. The Lost Post can no longer lay claim to be fulfilling this role, said to be vital in the preservation of democracy and a free society. Now so much hot air.

The media’s claim to be holding the powerful to account is, in any case, a hollow boast. News media can only expose wrongdoing; they lack the powers of the police and courts and cannot impose sanctions such as fines or prison sentences.

While publication of their investigations may cause embarrassment, the impact made depends on the size of their audiences which are becoming increasingly fragmented as publishers and broadcasters resort to internet platforms and

social media to cut distribution costs.

Other cost-cutting measures such as getting rid of reporters and sub-editors, replacing their output with supplied comment and opinion, often from lobbyists pushing their own barrows or former politicians, such as ex-broadcasting minister Kris Faafoi, filling up space with platitudes and statements of the bleeding obvious, have further diluted the newspaper’s claims to independence.

Mercifully, honest and interesting opinions may still be found in letters to the editor (replaced at The Lost Post by the editor of two other Stuff-owned weekly newspapers (Sunday Star-Times and Sunday News). One letter in particular, published on Friday 14 July, is worth reproducing in full. To get full enjoyment from reading it, imagine its author, John Rankin, at his desk somewhere in Wellington’s CBD, a copy of *Economics for Dummies* open at the chapter on Running Public Transport for Profit alongside a (very slim) volume of the collected thoughts of Roger Douglas and Richard Prebble.

Under the heading “Space out the bus stops”, Rankin begins his letter with support for the Let’s Get Wellington Moving (LGWM) proposal to reduce the number of bus stops on the city’s “Golden Mile” because, he writes, “it shows they are treating public transport as a business”

“Ideal bus stop spacing is as far apart as possible to increase speed, making buses more productive and services more attractive. With fewer stops, we can afford to provide better infrastructure at each stop.

“If stops are too close together, many passengers would have more than one stop within walking distance. This duplicate coverage is wasteful. Moving stops further apart reduces duplication and waste. But if stops are too far apart, it creates coverage gaps, because it’s too far to walk to the nearest stop.”

Up to this point I was thinking that Rankin was taking the piss and that he would reveal his satirical intent by concluding that the most efficient bus route would have a terminus at either end and no stops in the middle, increasing speed while reducing stress on drivers and wear-and-tear on brakes. But no. Like a runaway car heading for a brick wall, Rankin surged on.

“LGWM’s designers had to strike a balance between duplicate coverage and coverage gaps,” he wrote. “The Golden Mile is the primary public transport corridor through the city, so we ought to aim for maximum ridership.

“As a result, the designers have chosen to minimise duplicate coverage by placing stops farther apart.”

Then, as if to dispel any doubt that he’s deadly serious in his views on bus-stop spacing, despite not having thought the issue through to its logical if absurd conclusion, Rankin writes “closer stop spacing would mean slower operation, which is not only more expensive to operate but also less attractive to riders.”

Not if they want to get off the bus at a stop close to where they want to go. Riders, by definition, are already on the bloody bus. There is no need to make the bus more attractive to them. Speed is not a big deal for them. Reliability is much more important. Just having a bus turn up is a big plus. If it’s on time, that’s an added bonus, a cherry on the cake of a properly functioning public transport service.

Rankin’s letter, though, has immense value as an example of what happens when a government allows a public service to be run as a business for profit.

Immediately, the purpose of running the service changes as waves of managers, accountants, business consultants, marketing experts, communications and public relations hacks climb aboard and fight for seats up the front. Passengers, for whom public transport is a necessity, not a lifestyle choice, become impediments to the smooth, efficient and profitable operation of the service. The fact that, for various reasons, many people can’t walk more than half a city block doesn’t intrude on the mad economic logic of

the amateur urban planner.

Closely related to public transport in having to meet peak demand on weekday mornings and evenings, radio and television news also have to balance conflicting interests as public services run as businesses for profit.

TVNZ, converted into a state-owned enterprise in the 1980s, is supposed to make a profit from the sale of airtime to advertisers and pay a dividend to the Government. Allowed by this government to operate purely as a business, its management has used the surplus it would have used to pay its dividend to start up a streaming service (TVNZ+) in direct competition with global media corporations such as Netflix and Disney. The cost of buying TV series and movies to keep TVNZ+ supplied with fresh content now sees TVNZ facing a loss of some \$15 million this financial year.

Radio New Zealand, on the other hand, fully funded from taxes and not required to make money from advertising or produce a profit, has received \$76 million from the Government to cover \$68.7 million in expenditure — a surplus of some \$8 million.

How did this happen? Well, you’ll have to ask Willie Jackson, Labour’s third broadcasting minister, and his advisers in the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

Left with a truckload of cash after the Prime Minister, Chris ‘Chippy’ Hipkins, threw the new public media merger between RNZ and TVNZ on his policy bonfire in February, Jackson and the ministry dumped almost all of it on Radio New Zealand, much to the surprise of its chief executive, Paul Thompson. He now has to find ways of spending it on RNZ’s website which lags well behind the news websites of the NZ Herald and Stuff, attracting barely a fifth of their monthly viewership.

Six years after Jacinda Ardern held out the promise of a non-commercial television channel, this is the mess that has developed from allowing our publicly owned broadcasters to be run by their boards and management as businesses policy for this to happen.

Ngāti Tukorehe prepping for treaty claims



above: Ngāti Tukorehe kaumātua Diane Taylor and Yvonne Wehipeihana-Wilson at a previous hearing held in Foxton in 2022.

Working bees have been run and the marae workers and ringawera are gearing up for one of the most important events in the history of Tukorehe Marae. From 31 July to 4 August, the Waitangi Tribunal will hear the Ngāti Tukorehe treaty claims.

This hearing is a culmination of years of hard work and Ngāti Tukorehe spokesperson Kelly Bevan recalled the time when Tukorehe lodged their claim and presented a kete with their claim to former MP Doug Kidd “who grew up in Kuku with the Tukorehe whānau.”

“There was a big contingent of us who attended and lodged our claim, Wai 1913. Many of our well-known people spoke at this hui including “Papa Sean” Ogden. We shall miss him along with all those other kaumātua who were a part of our journey to seek justice.”

A broad of issues are involved including land loss, economic disadvantage and stagnation, environmental issues and the effect of education policies, especially the effect on te reo. Outlining these issues are iwi members who include Dr Huhana Smith, Patrick Seymour, Kelly Bevan, Lindsay Poutama and Māori business development consultant Richard Tauhe Jefferies.

This is the thirteenth sitting of the Waitangi Tribunal that will hear the grievances of a confederation of iwi that comprise Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Kauwhata, hapū of Te Reureu and Ngāti Wehiwehi. Ngāti Tukorehe are a fiercely independent iwi who maintain their “mana motuhake” within the confederation that occupy the Manawatū/Horowhenua/Kāpiti area.

This is one of the larger Treaty of Waitangi claims to be heard throughout the country. It commenced in 2020 in the Manawatū and progresses south to its conclusion in Ōtaki later this year. The original claim was lodged in 1989 by kaumātua Whata Karaka Davis, Ngārongo Iwikatea Nicholson, Te Maharanui Jacob and Pita Richardson. They have now all passed on.

These iwi migrated to the Manawatū/Horowhenua/Ōtaki area alongside Ngāti Toa, Te Āti Awa and other iwi during the early 19th Century. They represent an estimated population of some 30,000 descendants who affiliate to 21 marae stretching from Bulls in the north-west, Te Reureu in the north-east and to Ōtaki in the south-west.



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Mid Winter swim

BY NIKKI LUNDIE



This year, the Ōtaki Surf Lifesaving Club invited the public to partake in their annual mid-winter swim on Sunday 25th June, and it was a resounding success! The weather gods smiled upon us with a beautifully calm and sunny day, so much so that most ‘swimmers’ declared, “it wasn’t even that cold!” However, they were still very pleased

to warm themselves up afterwards with a hot shower and a steaming cup of Milo or one of the many soup options available. This year the theme was fluro, and people did not disappoint: the beach was full of brightly clad, keen swimmers. Prizes were handed out for best dressed and those that took it to the next level by staying in the

water for the longest time. We welcomed many familiar faces into our club rooms for a shared lunch. During the patrol season we get to know many of the locals who pop down for a daily dip, some of them continue all year round, which is most impressive during the chilly winter months. In other news, the club’s Annual General

Meeting will be held on Monday 7 August, where new and currently serving committee members will be elected onto the committee for another year. Our committee members give up a lot of personal time to help steer the club in a positive direction each year and we’d like to take this opportunity to thank them all for serving us so well.



Quiet time for Fire Brigade

BY FRANK NEILL

June was a very quiet month for the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade with just 19 call outs.

During the month the brigade attended nine property fires, which included three

vehicles, two of which had been stolen. None of the property fires were major, Chief Fire Officer Ian King says. Private fire alarms activating resulted in

five call outs. There was one call to a rubbish, grass or scrub fire, one medical call out and two “good intent” calls. A “good intent” call is where callers report an emergency but when

the brigade arrives it finds that it is not. The brigade attended one “special services” call. Special services are events not fitting the above categories, such as helicopter landings and lines down.

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