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Brent Bythell: First Scout Leader with 60 years' service

BY FRANK NEILL

The group leader of the Ōtaki Scouts, Brent Bythell, became the first person in the movement's New Zealand history to receive a service award for 60 years' service to Scouting.

Brent was presented his service award by Graham Lake, Scouts NZ Kāpiti Coastal zone leader, at a ceremony at the Ōtaki Fire Station on 19 August.

Brent's service began on 21 July 1963 as the assistant Scout leader in Blenheim, Graham told the very well attended gathering.

"To my knowledge, this is the first time we have recognised 60 years of service to Scouting in New Zealand."

The service award "recognises an extraordinarily valuable contribution to Scouting".

Brent started as a Cub in 1953 in Blenheim. During his time as a Scout in Blenheim, Brent achieved Queen Scout and Chief Scout and he finished his time as a Senior Scout before moving into a voluntary leadership role.

Following his service in Blenheim, Brent moved to Hunterville in 1966, where he was assistant Scout leader, then moved to Shannon in 1969 before moving to Ōtaki in 1972.

Brent became Ōtaki's Scout leader in 1976 and then became group leader.

"Brent has received many awards over the years." Among these he was awarded the Medal of Merit in 1978 and in 1993 he received the Chief Scout Commendation for meritorious service.

"About four or five years ago he was made a Life Member of Scouting New Zealand."

During his time in the movement, Brent had attended six Scout Jamborees, four Gang Shows and made a trip to the Antarctica in 1963.

"Brent has been quite an advocate for the changes that have happened over the years in Scouting," Graham said.

"I have always appreciated the pearls of wisdom from Brent."

He has also been an active recruiter and was also heavily involved in the building of Kereru Lodge in the Ōtaki Gorge.



above: Graham Lake, Scouts NZ Kāpiti Coastal zone leader (left) presenting Brent Bythell with his 60-year service award.

"It has been an absolute honour to know you and work with you."

Graham also thanked Brent's wife Annie, who is the Akela (leader) of the Ōtaki Cubs, for the support she has provided Brent.

Marlene Rankin, the general manager for Scouts in the lower North Island, also paid tribute to Brent.

"Thank you very much for your dedicated service over the last 60 years," she said.

"I have worked with some absolutely amazing people," Brent said after receiving the award.

"The greatest thing in our Scout movement is the people.

"It's been an honour to work with all of you."

Brent thanked his mother, who was his first supporter in Scouts, his two consecutive wives, his son, his daughter and his daughter-in-law for their support.

"The fire station is an appropriate place to gather, not only because I work here, but because Scouts have been involved in many emergencies."

As well as attending a world Scout Jamboree in Australia "I have been to four Gang Shows. They are fabulous.

"It is just one facet of what we are teaching kids or exposing kids to in Scouting.

"I was lucky in that I was interested in theatre in addition to Scouting."

Brent is a member of the Ōtaki Players Society.

"Being in a Gang Show with a cast of 100 was amazing."

In the Scouting movement, "we build better citizens for tomorrow," Brent said.

For information on the Ōtaki Scouts, or to join, visit <https://scouts.nz/groups/otaki-scout-group/>.



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Kiara Koizumi: Cooking star

BY VIVIENNE BAILEY

Fourteen-year-old Kiara Koizumi was born in Japan, but she is a regular visitor (although interrupted by Covid restrictions) with brothers, Asahi and Kyle, to Ōtaki, her mother's birthplace. The three, accompanied by mum Chriss Macpherson, have been spending their annual Japan summer holidays in New Zealand, studying at local schools, initially at Waitohu, later at Te Horo School.

Chriss attended Ōtaki School and College, and Kiara is currently, temporarily studying at the college, a significant cultural change for the young teenager. Older brother, Asahi achieved Proxime Accessit at Ōtaki College.

"Education is different, much more intense in Japan," Kiara says. "But it's great here, I've stayed in touch with my friends from primary school."

Kiara is not only an international student. She is a successful culinary media star,

participating in online linkups between children in Kitakyushu, Japan, and Indonesia through Kids2Kids Change the World, a Facebook programme that fosters global competence for children through intercultural exchange.

"I deliver cooking lessons using mostly local ingredients, and with little waste," she says. "I get inspiration from my grandmothers in Japan and New Zealand."

The kickstart to her culinary career began when Kyle went on a homestay to New Zealand for several months.

"I missed him a lot, and at the same time Mum's friend made me a chef top to use when I was cooking," she explains. "The two things together led to the start of Cooking with Kiara."

The YouTube programme was a joint project between Kiara and her mother, although Chriss strongly denies any cooking talent herself.

Kiara finds cooking is a way to connect with and inspire her peers and has given a guest lesson at a friend's English school (Kiara is bi-lingual, speaking both English and Japanese) where she conducted a class making beignets (like doughnuts). She has also branched out into pop-up events, hosting cookery classes under the name of Kiara's Café making hamburgers (the buns are made from scratch), and a variety of savoury pies and desserts.

Kiara is also an official brand ambassador for the 100-year-old Otafuku Sauce company of Hiroshima.

Celebrity chefs Kiara admires include Jamie Oliver and our own Chelsea Winters – who follows Kiara on Instagram and has sent her supportive emails.

Kiara has been called "a mini entrepreneur" but she shakes her head at this, "I just love to cook."



bottom right & left: official Otafuku Brand Ambassador Kiara Koizumi in action

top right: Kiara at Ōtaki College, with her mother, Chriss Macpherson



Between neighbours – building a fence

BY FLEUR HOBSON

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Can I ask my neighbour to pay half the cost of a new fence between us? In almost all cases the answer to this question will be "yes".

The Fencing Act 1978 says that the "occupiers of adjoining lands not divided by an adequate fence are liable to contribute in equal proportions to work on a fence".

Perhaps the first question to ask, then, is whether there is already a fence between your properties. If there is, and it is "adequate", then you can still ask your neighbour to contribute, but they will be able to decline.

If it is a new fence, the neighbour will generally need to contribute.

When you want to build a fence and want your neighbour to contribute, it's best to talk to them and for you both to agree on a proposal.

One common area that leads to disagreement is when someone wants to build a more expensive fence, and expects their neighbour to pay half. But there are other questions that can arise too.

It can be a very good idea to meet with a lawyer before you go and see your neighbour. This often saves you money, even though you have to pay your lawyer, as it's generally very much cheaper to negotiate an agreement than it is for the District Court to decide.

You can go over your plans with your lawyer, who will be able to advise you on things like negotiation tactics and how the courts have decided fencing issues as they

relate to your particular situation.

Your lawyer, for example, can discuss with you what courts consider to be "adequate", or "reasonably satisfactory".

Your lawyer can advise you on what they think would be a good starting point and a good end point of negotiation, especially if you want a quite expensive fence.

Your lawyer can also outline what you will need to do under the Fencing Act and how best to do it.

In a nutshell, the Fencing Act says that before you even start on a fence you must

give your neighbour a Fencing Notice.

This notice must specify the boundary to be fenced, the type of fence, who will build it and the estimated cost. If the cost is not going to be divided equally, the notice must say what shares are proposed.

The notice must also explain that the neighbour has 21 days to object or to make any counter proposals.

If your neighbour does not want a fence, or they want any changes to what you propose, they will have to give you what is called a "Cross Notice" saying why they object to

the new fence being built or what they want to happen.

At this point you and your neighbour can still discuss things and come to an agreement. If you want, you can use a mediator or an arbitrator. Your dispute can also be decided by the Disputes Tribunal or the District Court.

For expert advice, whatever your issue, contact Fleur, Susie or Freya at Hobson Mills Law, 364 7190, 282 Mill Road – opposite Farmlands.

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PHONE 06 364 7190

Locals lobby for main road access to subdivision

BY FRANK NEILL

Moy Place and Sue Avenue residents are concerned that access to a big new 183-lot subdivision will be via their streets.

The residents are united in their concern, says Moy Place resident Lyall Payne, who has become the spokesperson for the group.

One of the reasons people bought properties in the two streets was the quiet lifestyle. That peace and quiet would disappear if the only access to the new subdivision was via Moy Place, Lyall says.

When the plan to provide access to the new subdivision was communicated to just six residents close to where the new access into Moy Place, a meeting of residents at his house was attended by people from 25 homes in Sue Avenue and Moy Place.

“Our focus is that the access comes off the main road,” Lyall says.

The main road Lyall refers to is still designated as a highway, and the address of the new subdivision is 33 Main Highway, Ōtaki. Access via this main road address “is more logical, it is safer and it is much more direct access for emergency services,” Lyall says.

A meeting between local residents and National’s Ōtaki candidate Tim Costley was held at 33 Main Highway on 15 August. Attended by 13 residents and the media, the meeting shared their concerns with Mr Costley.

Ōtaki MP Teresa Ngobi was also invited to the meeting, but could not attend. However, “she is keen to meet with residents and firstly asked Waka Kotahi for a report on why Main Highway is not the preferred and direct access,” Lyall says.

Providing access to the new subdivision via Moy Place and Sue Avenue “seems crazy

to me,” Mr Costley said.

“It seems so logical to put [the access] here,” he said, standing beside the fence at 33 Main Highway.

“I will advocate for you. I’m sure this will be a great subdivision if the road goes here,” he said.

That meeting was the latest in a series of meetings for residents of Sue Avenue and Moy Place.

The first was a meeting of 25 residents at Lyall’s home on 22 July. The second was a presentation to the Ōtaki Community Board on 8 August.

“Fifteen residents from our 30 households in Sue Avenue and Moy Place attended and the [Community] Board unanimously passed a motion supporting our case for access off the Main Highway into the 33 Main Highway development,” Lyall says.

The resolution the Community Board passed was that “the Ōtaki Community Board writes to the decision-making committee in regards to the Wakefield development on 33 Main Highway, Ōtaki and the current design of access for vehicles.”

The third meeting was the one with Mr Costley on 15 August.

“On 16 August a fire engine appeared in Moy Place,” Lyall told the Ōtaki Mail.

“Ōtaki Community Board member and firefighter, Simon Black was aboard with [the] chair of [the Ōtaki Community Board] Cam Butler’s van parked one side and [Ōtaki Fire Chief] Ian King parked his vehicle on the opposite side of the road.

“Gingerly they manoeuvred the fire truck between the two parked vehicles.



“I’d not like to be suffering and in urgent need of emergency services if I were living in the newly proposed development,” Lyall said.

Local residents would be making submissions to a panel that will make a decision on access to the new subdivision, he said.

The number one consideration in providing access to the subdivision via Moy Place “was safety for all road users,” Nick Taylor, the Director of Cutriss Consultants, the consultants for the subdivision, told the Ōtaki Mail.

“As advised by the project’s traffic expert, there is a direct relationship between increased crashes and access points on to main roads.

“The road still has a State Highway designation and until that is revoked the road is still a State Highway,” Mr Taylor said.

“The road layout through the development connects Moy Place to the residential land to the south-west, which has been designed to connect to [the] Main Highway.

“Providing a new intersection from 33 Main

Highway would increase the risk of intersection crashes, as well as increasing issues around the separation of potentially five intersections within 450 metres along this stretch of road.

“In addition, Waka Kotahi’s position was that the access to the development should be via Sue Avenue, which has a designated intersection.

“Further to the above, Sue Avenue and Moy Place were specifically designed to accommodate traffic flows from a proposed development of the site, and land has been set aside at the end of Moy Place for the road connection.

“The secondary consideration was about achieving good-quality urban design outcomes, noting that connectivity is a key urban-design principle.

“The proposed layout provides for roading connections to the south-west and the north, as well as a pedestrian connection to Main Highway,” Mr Taylor said.

“We see this as an exciting opportunity to provide much-needed quality housing in our district, in an area which has the highest housing stress on the Kāpiti Coast,” he added.



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BY VIVIENNE BAILEY

Paddy's Mart 2023

The popular Te Horo School Country Fair is back for another year on Saturday, 9 September. A major fundraiser for the school, driven and organised by the Te Horo Home and School Committee, the event promises to be as successful as previous years with a wide array of stalls, food and activities.

All the fun of the fair will be there such as a petting zoo; pony rides; bouncy castle; grocery raffles; the fun 'smash palace' where you get to throw wood and smash crockery; live music; the infamous cow-pat bingo; and, a first for this year, the gumboot throw.

Stalls include the popular mystery bottles (filled with wine, sauces, vinegars, oils and other yummy stuff); bric-a-brac; local produce and preserves; baking; sweets; edible and flowers from local gardens; books; toys; plants; crafts; and food stalls. School gates open at 11.00am.

The Leathery in Te Horo

Situated at 915a on the old State Highway One, The Leathery is a recently opened studio and workshop, owned by leather worker, Tim Mills.

"We opened in October last year, after refurbishing," said Tim. "But I've been working as a tutor, teaching, passing on skills, for many years."

As well as a wide range of Tim's work for sale, handcrafted leather goods can be made to order.

One-day workshops are available throughout the year and Tim told me he'd received good feedback from his recent class.

"The workshop was popular. People left with something they'd made – and a smile on their face."

Tim advised those wanting leatherwork tuition in his workshops to think ahead about what they wanted to create.

For further information contact Tim 021 894 431.

Te Horo Hall survey result

Most respondents to the recent hall survey/questionnaire were in favour of earthquake-strengthening the hall to prevent closure. Valuable feedback was provided on activities the community would like to see, and suggestions for funding and offers of assistance.

As a result, the hall committee has voted to continue with the strengthening project.

"Local businesses and individuals have provided support," said Judy Wood, Hall secretary. "Work is going ahead with the engineer and builders and a funding plan is being developed."

A significant consequence of the survey has been the formation of local group, Friends of Te Horo Hall, and "the committee welcomes their input."

For further information or to join the Friends of Te Horo Hall, email tehoro.hall@gmail.com

Drinks and Nibbles

The monthly community social catch-up, Friday 1 September, 5.30pm at Te Horo Hall. BYO plate of finger food to share and something to drink. All welcome.

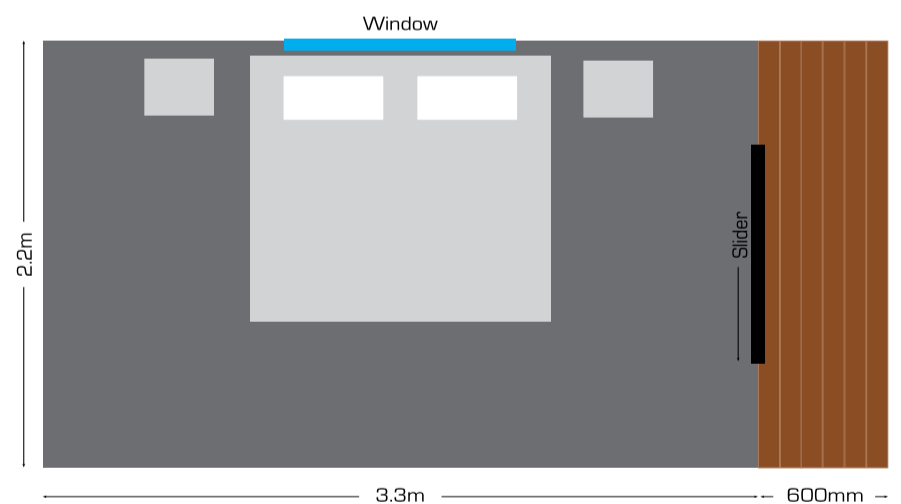


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Taking Ōtaki's pulse

Get wiggy to support Kiwi kids with cancer this September

On Wednesday 13 September, thousands of Kiwis are supporting tamariki with cancer and their families by taking part in Wig Wednesday, a nationwide fundraiser for Child Cancer Foundation – will you join them?

Every week in New Zealand, more than three kids are diagnosed with cancer. The treatment these children undergo often means they need to brave the world with no hair.

Wig Wednesday is a fun day where people can support these kids by wearing a wig, styling a funky hairdo or shaving their head while raising money for Child Cancer Foundation.

“So far, we have had hundreds of incredible Kiwi schools, workplaces and community groups sign up to get wiggy all over the country,” says Child Cancer Foundation’s Chief Executive, Monica Briggs.

“We are so grateful for their dedication to raising money for these whānau during what has been a difficult year for many Kiwis.”

The impact of Cyclone Gabrielle and the cost-of-living crisis has not only caused an increased need for the Foundation’s support services throughout 2023, but it has also affected their ability to raise vital funds to provide these services.

“We have seen families of all backgrounds pushed into severe stress and hardship this year as a result of their child’s cancer diagnosis,” says Monica.

“This is where New Zealanders’ generosity becomes a real lifeline for these families. Together, we can ensure they are supported through one of the toughest times in their lives.”

Child Cancer Foundation needs to raise over \$200,000 in urgent funds this Wig Wednesday to provide emotional, financial and practical support to tamariki with cancer and their whānau.

They don’t receive any direct government funding, so they rely on the generosity of incredible Kiwis to help these families through the toughest time of their lives.

“Every dollar raised for Wig Wednesday makes a difference,” says Monica.

“Please help us raise vital funds and awareness by wearing a wig this September 13th or making a donation to help Kiwi families impacted by childhood cancer.”

Sign up for Wig Wednesday or donate today at wigwednesday.org.nz. “We have seen families of all backgrounds pushed into severe stress and hardship this year as a result of their child’s cancer diagnosis,” says Monica.

“Please help us raise vital funds and awareness by wearing a wig this September 13th or making a donation to help Kiwi families impacted by childhood cancer.”

Sign up for Wig Wednesday or donate today at wigwednesday.org.nz.

Daffodil Day Supports Cancer Sufferers

BY ANN CHAPMAN

When the daffodils start to appear in our shops and gardens it fills us with hope that the winter has passed. It’s a very appropriate emblem for the Cancer Society to use for its annual fundraising appeal: daffodils mark the return of Spring, which is why cancer organisations worldwide use daffodils as a symbol of hope.

These days, post covid when everything stopped, cancer needs more focus than ever before. Daffodil Day is about showing support for the work the Cancer Society does, not only with day-to-day help for sufferers and families, but also for research into the causes and treatment of this scary disease. Daffodil Day is now into its 33rd year, ensuring that the Society can continue providing support and care services, helpline, counselling, transport, and accommodation when needed.

Each year the volunteers drive more than 1,000,000km to get patients to appointments. There are more than 50,000 nights provided in Cancer Society accommodation. There are over 9600 phones calls seeking help and support every year; and the society provides over \$5.2 million for research.

Supporting the Cancer Society means no one faces cancer alone. You can donate online here: <https://www.cancer.org.nz>



The Rongoā Space

BY JOANNE HAKARAIA

Rongoā of the Month MĀWE

Galium aparine

Māwe, otherwise known as cleavers, bedstraw, biddibid, is starting to pop through the undergrowth, looking fresh and vibrant. The most identifying feature of māwe is that she sticks to clothing and even the skin by way of the tiny hairs along her stem and seed pods. While māwe will most often be found growing along the ground, if given a chance, they will climb up trees or anything around it, using their hairs to cling and climb to up to six feet.

Seeing this rākau pop up in the garden is a perfect reminder that we are heading into lighter days. Our body will be preparing to move and desiring to feel lighter also. Seeing the new growth symbolises that we are in transition and coming out of the long colder months (although it doesn’t feel that way right now) and into warmer days. During the colder months we slowed down. The darker light encouraged us into hibernation to ponder and reflect and to wānanga. The light is now changing and therefore we are too. We begin to prepare ourselves for movement, slowly waking from our slumber. Māwe appears in early spring, right when our sluggish immune systems need a cleansing spring tonic and a boost!

Māwe is a cooling diuretic, meaning it moves water and lymph out of the body through the urinary tract. The cooling

property of māwe also helps to soothe inflammation that can come with swollen or stuck lymph in the body.

If you allow the wild plants to grow in your garden you will see what type of environment you have and the rongoā that you may require. Have you heard the kōrero: “What grows around your whare is usually the rongoā that you or someone in your whanau needs”? This is because everything is connected and in pursuit of growth and balance. As you grow internally, the rongoā around you changes. You either move to another area, or you plant what resonates for you. This has an effect on your personal vibration or mauri. The rongoā provides support for balance. Papatūānuku is always maintaining balance and the rākau grow naturally in specific areas to support her.

Recipe for a Rongoā Infusion

1. Place a handful of fresh or dried leaves into a jar, teapot or plunger
2. Pour over 250-500mls of boiled water
3. Let steep for 4-6 hours or overnight for a stronger effect
4. Strain, bottle and refrigerate
5. Drink a glass daily

Enjoy

Contraindications: Māwe is contraindicated in diabetes due to its diuretic action. As always, avoid rongoā if you are pregnant and/or breastfeeding,

and talk to your healthcare practitioner before introducing any new herb or rongoā into your life.

Do not ingest this plant without being able to confidently identify.

The information contained here is not meant to replace medical advice, diagnose or treat any disease.



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Cancer Society Horowhenua

Levin, Ōtaki and Foxton Diary, September 2023

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	Pure Breast Care. Ph Liz 0800 259 061. Bra/prosthesis fitting	By Appointment
	Natural Wear. Ph Donna 0800 622 397. Bra/prosthesis fitting	By Appointment
Monday 4	Foxton Cancer Kōrero. Phone Anita 021 510 318. Salvation Army Church Hall, 10 Avenue Road, Foxton. A place to talk if newly diagnosed, during or post treatment.	11.30am
Tuesday 12	Volunteers Meeting. Freemasons Hall, Parker Ave. Levin.	10 am
Wednesday 13	Financial Workshop. At Winchester House, Levin, & via Zoom. Please register with Fran as minimum numbers are required. Phone 06 356 5355 or email: fran.harvey@cancercd.org.nz Topics: Banking – options when facing financial stress – ANZ Enduring Powers of Attorney – Manawātū Community Law Cntr Services offered by Work and Income.	10am to noon
Wednesday 20	Men's Cancer Kōrero. Winchester House, Levin A place to talk if newly diagnosed, during or post treatment.	3pm
Wednesday 20/9 18/10 15/11	Ōtaki Cancer Kōrero. Ōtaki Memorial Hall A place to talk if newly diagnosed, during or post treatment. Meets 3 rd Wednesday of each month.	11am to noon
Tuesday 26	Women's Cancer Kōrero (talk) Winchester House, Levin A place to talk if newly diagnosed, during or post treatment.	10am
	Check out the Coping with Cancer videos on our website: www.cancernz.org.nz	

For further information on any of the above activities and support please contact:
Brylee Knowles, Supportive Care Coordinator, Horowhenua
Email: Brylee.knowles@cancercd.org.nz Mobile: 027 542 0066
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Ex-Wellington City Councillor, Sean Rush, to stand for ACT in Ōtaki

The ACT party have selected former Wellington City Councillor, Sean Rush, to contest the Ōtaki seat in this year's election. Rush was a Wellington City Councillor from 2019 to 2022 and was its representative on the Wellington Water Committee and Chair of its Infrastructure Committee.

"I'm thrilled that the ACT party have

selected me to contest the Ōtaki seat.

"This government has exacerbated the cost of living and their policies on crime and race relations are taking New Zealand backwards. ACT is the only party with a fully costed alternative budget and a determination to ask the tough questions on crime and race"

Rush is a barrister with a Masters in Law and a Masters in Climate Change Science and Policy. He was an expert reviewer for the UN's Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change's ("IPCC").

He is married with two children aged 6 and 9. At 54, he remains a competitive rugby player.

"Making a better future for our kids is what all politicians want. My time on the Council taught me that reaching across the divide can lead to better outcomes and I would take that kaupapa with me if elected.



Green Party announces Ali Muhammad as candidate for the Ōtaki Electorate

The Green Party is proud to announce Ali Muhammad as their candidate for Ōtaki.

Ali, a former refugee, and community advocate is committed to social justice, climate action, and building a fairer future for all.

Ali brings a unique perspective and deep commitment to advocating for the rights of refugees and marginalised communities. He is committed to working towards a more just and equitable society where everyone can thrive and reach their full potential.

"I am honoured to have the opportunity to represent the Green Party in the Ōtaki electorate," said Ali. "As a former refugee, I know how important it is to have strong, compassionate leaders who are committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive society for all. I am passionate about tackling the climate crisis and building a fairer, more sustainable future for our children and grandchildren."

"We need to take action to address climate change and ensure that our planet is habitable for future generations," Ali Muhammad added. "We must also tackle economic inequality and ensure everyone can access basic rights like housing, healthcare, and education."

"The Green Party has a proven track record of promoting policies that protect our environment and ensure a fairer and more equitable society," Ali added. "I am excited to be part of a party that shares my values and is committed to creating positive change in our community and country."



"I am looking forward to engaging with the people of Horowhenua & Kāpiti and hearing their views on the issues that matter to them," Ali concluded. "I believe that, together, we can create a fairer, more sustainable, and more equitable future for all."

Ōtaki Mail

For news and advertising contact: Penny Gaylor, Editor-
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or email: otakimail@xtra.co.nz

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Mayor Holborow's report

BY JANET HOLBOROW – KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT MAYOR

People with disabilities, and older people, will soon be more comfortable in the Ōtaki Library with the installation of a new set of furniture specifically designed to meet their needs.

Ron Eckman contacted council staff and elected members, and spoke at the June meeting of the Social Sustainability Committee to express his concern at the lack of appropriate chairs in libraries. He pointed out that many seniors have knee and hip issues, and trouble with balance, arthritis, which make daily life challenging. A range of other health issues, such as stroke, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's also contribute to the need for appropriate furniture. A higher chair means that people with these issues can stand back up easily – something the rest of us might take for granted.

Ron also highlighted a range of other needed improvements, such as other seating – inside and out – and facilities such as drinking fountains and accessible public toilets.

The issue of delivering accessible facilities covers a wide range of community needs. Assets must be as amenable for a five-year-old, or an 85-year-old, and what was considered acceptable 20 years ago is no

longer adequate. Public expectation and industry standards constantly change, so we need to make financial provision for the replacement of assets, which is expensive but vital.

We have recently completed an Age Friendly Approach, which will be rolled out over the coming years. We need to make sure that tangible actions like this are implemented as we address the needs of our older community. What works for older people often works for others – not only people with disabilities, but people of all ages and families. We want our district to be a place that works for everyone.

On a different note, it was wonderful to plant some trees along with the Friends of the Ōtaki River recently. It was a significant day as students from St Peter Chanel School were the final school in Ōtaki to be involved in planting days. Walking along the river, you can see the areas that have been planted over the years by all of the schools in Ōtaki, and it represents so much work by the Friends and staff and students at the kura and colleges. Congratulations to Max Lutz and the crew who have worked so hard to improve the river corridor and its biodiversity and health, and to all the young people who've lent a hand.



above: Mayor Janet Holborow (left) with Max Lutz of Friends of the Ōtaki River.

Out and about with Shell

BY SHELLY WARWICK – ŌTAKI WARD COUNCILLOR

Intensification: A Government Initiative

There is some angst in the community about what is going to be allowed in our town now that Council has voted on the proposed Plan Change 2, Intensification.

When government decided to examine land legislation that required intensification, it classed the Kāpiti Coast District Council as a Tier 1 Council, which is the same level as big urban centers around the country. Why? Because we are so close to Wellington and we now have an Expressway allowing for rapid travel to the city

Government have also approved money for

an increase in the train service with plans for hybrid diesel–electric train travel in the near future. Whether we like it or not, Ōtaki has become desirable to those who cannot afford to buy in Wellington.

Fact is, we don't have enough houses: as more people move here, with our limited housing supply, it is pushing our local families out of our town and out of our community. We need to grow and, being a country girl, I am really not keen on all our beautiful arable land being taken for housing. So, we need to grow upwards, and that is what the Government has told us we HAVE TO do, no ifs, no buts – simply, you

must. This can be taken as a negative, or we can choose to see the positive side: that our young Ōtaki people will be able to afford to stay in our community, to rent or maybe buy a house or an apartment as there will be more options in the market. Equally, if we are building more intensively, our older folk may be able to sell up and downsize and stay in our community. At present there are no options in Ōtaki for people to move into retirement-type accommodation.

Ōtaki has been through periods of growth before: the half-acre section went to the quarter-acre section; and is now down to

500- or 300-square-metre section. The next step is building up. People have to live somewhere and Council staff have done a truck-load of work to ensure that Plan Change 2 gives Council a few levers to pull to enable some control over growth.

For us in Ōtaki, others are discovering what we knew already – this is a really cool place to live and an amazing community – and they want to be part of it. Locals need to ride the wave of change and make the most of it for the community's sake.

Ka kite anō au i a koutou whānau
Shelly

Friends' fundraising success

BY FRIENDS OF THE ŌTAKI ROTUNDA

The fundraising quiz night on Wednesday 23 August was a huge success!

\$1375.60 was raised for the Rotunda restoration fund!

Massive thanks to the organisers and to all who came and had a jolly good night and

to also Kelly & Co Real Estate who sponsored the raffle prizes.

Neil Gordon took the photos. As you can see the room was full! The winning team was Hippolatus seen below posing with Quizmaster Graeme Baumgart and Di Buchan (left).

Our next, not-to-be-missed fundraiser is on Wednesday 6 September at 7:30 pm in the Ōtaki Civic Theatre. Thanks to the generous co-operation of the Ōtaki Players, we have been allocated a night when half the proceeds will be donated to the Rotunda restoration. Trustees and helpers will be

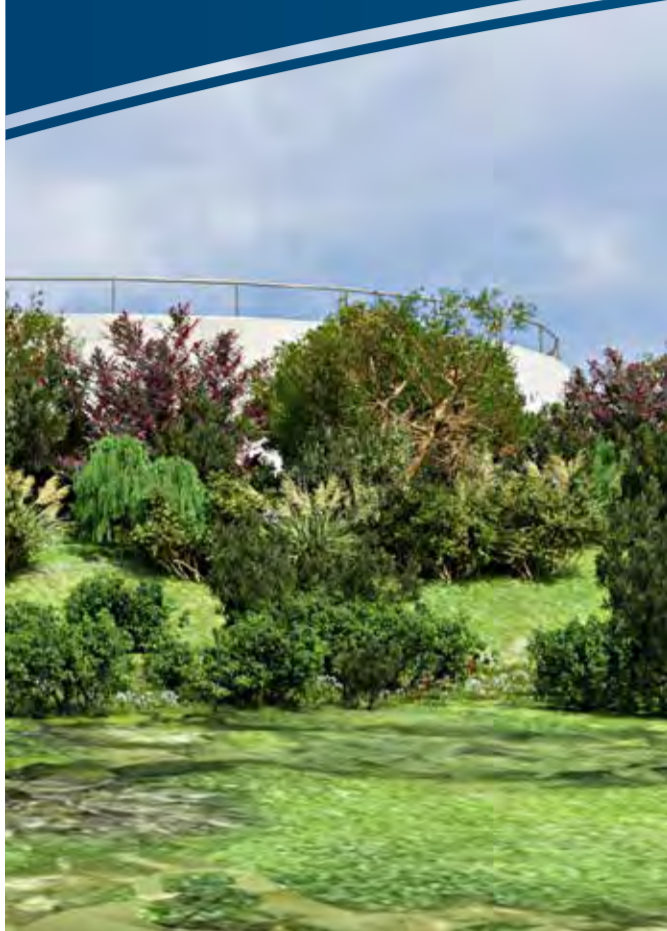
acting as ushers and bar staff. We will organise a raffle for half time. This is a great opportunity for group bookings.

Tickets are selling fast so book your tickets now at www.otakiplayers.nz



Ōtaki Update

September 2023



Ōtaki infrastructure improvements

Over the next six years we'll deliver a \$50 million programme of drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater upgrades in Ōtaki.

This work is supported by \$29.3 million from the government's Infrastructure Acceleration Fund.

The first project off the blocks is the new 5.5-million-litre reservoir, which will improve resilience, increase the storage capacity of drinking water, and improve firefighting capability (see below for other improvements in this space). More projects to improve the drinking water network are being planned.

We're also identifying improvements for the wastewater and stormwater networks, and these are likely to involve upgrading pump stations and installing new pipes. We expect to finalise the list of improvement projects by the end of this year.

Our infrastructure upgrades are part of a wider programme to help meet current and future housing needs in Ōtaki while ensuring development is sustainable and protects the town's unique characteristics and cultural identity.



New fire loop reaches Main Street

We're due to begin further work to improve the firefighting water supply on 11 September. This will involve our crews installing 230 metres of new water main along Main Street from the Matene Street intersection to the Ōtaki Fire Station on Mill Road. We'll also install a new water pipe along Aotaki Street north.

We'll have traffic management in place while we complete the work, which might require detours. We'll need to reduce sections of Main Street to one lane at times.

We expect to finish the work by the middle of October.



Aquatic centre celebrates the big 10

Time flies when you're having fun!

This September we're celebrating a decade of lengths, bombs, slides, aquafit, saunas, and spas at Coastlands Aquatic Centre.

We're dedicating a whole month to the milestone with fun events lined up for people of all ages, from movies at the pool to an aquafitness festival.

And speaking of flying, we've got a cool new addition on the way and need your help giving it a name...

► Visit: kapiticoast.govt.nz/HappyBirthdayCAC for more information.



More housing enabled in Kāpiti

Changes to the District Plan, which comes into force 1 September, mean that over time we could see more medium-density housing, housing variety and choice, and higher buildings in our main centres and Kāpiti line railway stations.

The plan change was required by government, but councillors are satisfied we have good mechanisms for ensuring change is appropriate and well managed. These include districtwide rules for earthworks, noise, and infrastructure; statutory design guides; and provisions that protect us from hazards and safeguard our heritage and natural environment.

► Visit: kapiticoast.govt.nz/PC2 for more information.

Zero Waste Ōtaki: Wood recycling update

BY JO LYNCH

There's some good wood on site at the moment and the winter weather hasn't deterred people from coming to buy – quite a few of them for the first time. The bags of firewood have all sold out and some good-quality doors were snapped up almost as soon as they were posted on the Facebook page. There has also been some interesting furniture come in, including a children's lego table. If you are coming to check the furniture out, it's in the first green container.

Volunteers have been working hard to de-nail and sort the big loads coming in from Envirowaste and Woods Waste – as well as another load from the Waananga (mostly framing and short plank off-cuts) and the smaller loads from people and businesses keen to be part of the reduce, reuse, recycle movement.

It's always great to hear what the buyers are building. Recently, Tina came over from Judgeford to buy material for her second chicken house. Her first one (pictured) is made mostly from ZWŌ wood, and it's a work of art. Now she has 12 more rescued hens and needs to build more accommodation. She also bought a supply of fence posts, so they are always on hand. "I think ZWŌ is amazing. I just love it."



The fourth Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki rangatahi group has finished the course. Hinewai Rautao, who is one of their tutors, says that most days (when they are not too tired!) they really enjoy coming along to help. "They especially enjoyed creating their pou, [which is joining the pou for all the other organisations that help support ZWŌ], and they liked making the small planter boxes and getting some work skills. I enjoy coming, too, and being able to support the community."

There have been a few near-misses as people drive out of the site and turn right instead of keeping to the left – so there are now two Exit Left signs where the ZWŌ road joins the road to the landfill.

There's always weeding and planting to be done on the bund, so anyone who would like to join the gardening volunteers would be very welcome.

ZWŌ is open to the public every Wednesday 9.30 – 10.30 am; on the last Sunday of the month 9.00am – 12.00 pm; and at other times by arrangement (ph 027 232 3051).

To keep up to date with what's new, see the ZWŌ Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/zerowasteotaki.nz



Energise Ōtaki: Getting the good times rolling

BY EMILY MCDOWELL



above: Volunteer bike-fixer Rob Adams and new bike-owner Brie Kanavatoa at the 2022 Ōtaki Bike Space Great Bike Giveaway

September is bike country. At its beginning, the last volunteer-lead fix-it session to prepare bikes to give away. At its end, the giveaway!

Ōtaki locals have been donating bikes all year and there's a mounting stack of them ready to go. There's still more needing tyres replaced and pumped, brakes checked, and basic repairs made to get to a road safe state. The more people at the session to do this, the more bikes there'll be to share later. Can you join us? No experience necessary – there's a job for everyone.

Then, we roll around at last to the annual Ōtaki Bike Space Great Bike Giveaway and Repair Day. Volunteers will be on site to match bikes to their new owners. First in, first fitted, while stocks last, etc. Koha is appreciated and goes straight back into repairing more bikes. Which will also be happening on the day! Walk in, roll out, Ōtaki.

Ōtaki Bike Space is one of Energise Ōtaki's 'climate energy' projects. More bike riding means less car driving...simultaneously reducing carbon emissions while building calf muscles like cats eyes (the road kind).



This is one of the ways we're aiming to help our town get to 'carbon neutral' by 2035. Reducing how much fossil-fuel-based energy we use is crucial. And while in the bigger picture this means strategic policies and strong infrastructure, there's good times to be had out in the open air too.

Like at Ōtaki Carbon Forests' first planting session, in August. We're now 200 saplings closer to 'offsetting' some emissions. Future plantings will be in blocks of one hectare or more, in partnership with landowners.

Meanwhile, more good news: the subsidy for home insulation has gone up to 90% for many Ōtaki homeowners. Warm Up Ōtaki can help with this and other home energy improvements.

All our projects' details are on www.energiseotaki.nz, or come chat at the Ōtaki Community Expo.

- Final bike fix-it session: Sat., 2 Sept. 10am – 2pm. Email: otakibikespace@gmail.com for details
- Ōtaki Bike Space Great Bike Giveaway and Repair Day: Sat., 30 Sept., 10am – 2pm, Ōtaki College

Toy library nearing its 30th anniversary

BY FRANK NEILL

The highly successful Ōtaki Toy Library – Te Whare a Rēhia has been serving the town's whānau for almost 30 years.

The toy library's 30th anniversary will take place in October and its organisers are planning a celebration of the milestone.

Currently the popular toy library has 61 families who are members, with more than 75 children being able to play with the library's toys, the library's toy librarian Céire Hopley told the Ōtaki Mail.

That was not the case around six or seven years ago when the toy library got down to just 12 members and almost had to close down.

Today, however, it is in good shape.

The library is open two days a week – Saturday mornings from 10:30am to noon and Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 5:30pm at the Memorial Hall.

The aim is to provide members with access to a wide range of entertaining, educational, sturdy and safe toys, puzzles and games.

Its motto is "He tamaiti tākaro, he tamaiti ako – A playing child is a child learning."

The toy library is run entirely by volunteers. When people join as members they can choose to also be a volunteer member, for a cheaper membership price.

The volunteering aspect is not onerous, with the volunteers helping four times a year on a Saturday morning.

As well as the volunteers, two people are paid a few hours a week to ensure the smooth running of the organisation.

"There's also the sustainability aspect," Céire says.

"With the toy library people are not buying toys and then sending them to the landfill [when the children grow too old for them]."

"Another thing we have been focussing on this year is to get more toys for the children between five and eight years."

The toy library is "working towards trying to make this space and this organisation as welcoming to all as we can," the library's co-chair Heath Hutton says.

"We are also trying to increase Te Reo in the toy library. We are trying to start small and build up our capacity."

"There are quite a few whānau who only speak Te Reo."

The toy library, Heath says, has been "built on a history of many in the community pitching in."

"We are always open to suggestions as to how the toy library can be better and as welcoming as we can be."

Four times a year the toy library runs a "party" session on from 10.30am – 12 in the Memorial Hall to showcase their toys and member community.

The Ōtaki Toy Library has national and international links. It is a member of the Toy Library Federation of New Zealand.

Earlier this year Céire gained a scholarship to the International Toy Library Conference in Melbourne, where she presented a workshop.

"That was really awesome," she says.

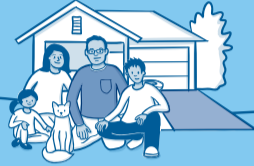
"I presented about library user-experience research."

Her trip to Melbourne in March was supported by a grant from the Ōtaki Community Board.



Céire Hopley and her daughter in front of the bouncy castle and slide at the toy library's party day on 19 August.

A Message from your Council



Hey there, Ōtaki folks!

Your Council wants to chat about where our district is going. We're making plans for the next few years and even the next 30 years! Our goal is to make our community better in lots of ways, like how we live, the environment, and more.

We know there are big challenges like climate change and stuff. But we're ready to tackle them and we want your help.

We're changing how we work with you. We want to hear your ideas and concerns. You can visit us at our special places to chat, or you can talk to us online. We've got a bunch of topics to talk about, like what's important to you and how we spend money.

We've got some important things we're working on for the next three years. We want to know if you like them. And in the future, we're thinking about what our district should be like in 30 years! We want your ideas for that too.

We'll be hanging out in the Engagement Hub, and you can join in. Later, we'll share our detailed plans, and we want your thoughts. We're also dreaming up a cool vision for the future. We want Kāpiti to be awesome for you, your kids, and everyone else. We'll be asking questions and having meetings to figure it out.

We're excited to hear what you think. Let's make Kāpiti even better, together! See you soon,

Kāpiti Coast District Mayor and Councillors

Coming soon!

In September our roaming Vision Kāpiti engagement hub will be setting up shop in Ōtaki. We'd love for you to pop-in and have your say. Your feedback will help inform our activity and budget for the next three years as well as help to shape a vision for this special place we call home. Visit **haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/Vision-Kāpiti** to find out when and where we'll be.



To learn more about this important mahi and to have your say online visit **haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/Vision-Kapiti**.



What matters most?





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Garden tasks for September



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Flower garden

Feed shrubs and perennials, including roses, if you haven't already done so.

Prune winter and spring flowering shrubs, such as camellias, if needed, so they have maximum time to recover and mature new flowering wood for next year.

Prune shrubs that flower on new season's growth in summer, such as fuchsias and hibiscus, to encourage plenty of fresh, new growth. You can cut fuchsias and hibiscus back by a third or even more.

Continue planting frost hardy trees, shrubs and perennials. The sooner you get them in, the less watering they'll need in summer.

Continue planting summer flowering bulbs and tubers. If you plant gladioli bulbs now every two or three weeks until Christmas, you will have an ongoing source of cut flowers.

Prolong blooming of early spring flowers such as cineraria, pansies, poppies and primula by liquid feeding and removing spent blooms.

Sow seeds of ageratum, aster, carnation, cosmos, dianthus, godetia, honesty, impatiens, marigold, petunia, phlox, statice, sunflower, verbena – and heaps more!

Plant out seedlings of spring and summer flowering annuals including begonia, cosmos, calendar, wallflower, lobelia, nemesia, primula, polyanthus, hollyhock and sweet-pea.

Fruit and vegetable garden

Complete your vegetable bed preparation, digging in plenty of compost.

Plant early crop potatoes after sprouting – just watch for frosts once their tops poke through the soil.

Sow seeds of carrots, parsnip, beetroot, silver-beet, peas, swede and turnips directly into soil. Sow lettuce, leeks, cabbage, tomato, capsicum, courgette, cucumber and eggplant ready for transplanting later.

Plant out summer vegetable seedlings such as lettuce, leeks, cabbage, onions and silver-beet. Make sure you harden off seedlings before planting. Nights in the open are much cooler than under cover at this time of the year.

Start off kumara by planting healthy tubers in containers of just damp sand in a warm place.

Continue planting citrus and feed existing trees with citrus fertiliser if you haven't already done so.

Spray stone fruit with a copper spray just before and after bud burst to control curly leaf, and other fungal diseases. To control brown rot, spray again at petal fall.

Buy codlin moth traps or refills so you get them out before apples, quinces and pears start flowering.

Plant your herbs in pots or into garden, and sow herb seeds for summer harvest.

Lawns

Sow new lawns, and feed existing with fertiliser, watering in well.

Spray Onehunga weed with prickle weed killer to eliminate prickles in summer.

Second thoughts

Tidy up and feed houseplants.

Put potted cyclamen that have finished flowering outside in a shady, sheltered place.

Focus on growing the loquat

Subtropical loquats, *Eriobotrya japonica* are handsome evergreen shrubs or small trees, with large, leathery leaves. They produce panicles of small, white, sweetly fragrant flowers in autumn or early winter and are often the first fruit to ripen in the spring garden. The taste has been described as a mixture of pineapple, passionfruit and guava, and often likened to apricot yoghurt.

Indigenous to south-eastern China, the plant produces clusters of small, oval, rounded or pear-shaped yellow-to-orange fruit from early October to December. They're great eaten fresh off the tree, or mixed in a fruit salad with banana, pineapple and coconut, the succulent, tangy flesh is white, yellow or orange, and sweet-to-acid depending on your variety.

One of the few sub-tropical fruit species within the rosaceae family, the fruit is high in vitamin A and has good levels of potassium. The high levels of pectin make loquats great for jam, and they also produce a fine-tasting wine.

Loquats have a broad spreading habit and are very hardy, quite salt tolerant so they're happy growing in a coastal spot, but will need some wind protection. Extreme summer heat is detrimental (tip burn of the leaves frequently appears during a hot, dry summer as a result of soil and water salinity), but the plant grows well in sun or partial shade.

Plant your loquat as a shade tree, a screen or for their unusual fruit, in well-drained, fertile soil with access to water during

the growing period. They're not too fussy about soil, but prefer good drainage, although the plant can handle periods of moderately wet soils or drought.

Loquats are only moderately nutrient hungry – overfeeding will cause fewer flowers. Once your plant is established, a yearly, late summer general fertiliser is adequate.

Judicious pruning can be done after harvest, before summer growth. Remove crossing branches and thin dense growth to let light into the centre of the tree – they also respond well to more severe pruning.

There are few pests that bother loquats, although birds will sometimes peck at ripe fruit.

Great in a container for smaller gardens, or as a specimen tree in larger plots, the round-headed trees can be used to shade a patio, and make attractive espaliers.

Varieties include 'Kaitaia Gold,' and 'Thomas Pride,' compact trees that grow to a height of 6–9m, and 'Mogi,' which grows to 5–6m. All three produce fruit with firm flesh and a good balance between acid and sweetness – the flavour is apricot mixed with plum.

These loquats take three to four years to fruit, and harvesting should be done in spring, November to December, for 'Kaitaia Gold' and 'Mogi,' and October through to December for 'Thomas Pride'. Pick fruit when it has changed colour to a distinctive, deep, golden yellow to ensure maximum taste and sweetness.

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the Ōtaki Mail

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

A Dame Everage legacy

Ideal as cut flowers, the beloved blooms of Dame Everage have made a comeback and, like dahlias, are popular and back in many gardeners' good books.

I'm slowly coming around to liking these members of the iris family, often called sword lilies (the term comes from Latin, the diminutive of *gladius*, meaning a sword).

Gladioli are native to southern Africa, but also grow in some parts of Mediterranean Europe, so cope well with cool, wet winters followed by hot, dry summers. They prefer a climate that's frost-free or as frost-free as possible and can be grown all year round as there are both summer- and winter-flowering types, such as the delicate *Gladiolus priorii*.

The rounded, symmetrical corms, which are enveloped in several layers of brownish fibre, can be planted any time from now up until December – they will usually flower a hundred days after planting. Plant pointy side up in full sun and well-drained soil, 15cm deep and 12–15cm apart – some gladioli will grow to 1.5metre, while others may only reach 30cm. Tall plants may need staking – if you only have a couple of plants, then stake them individually. If you have several, a framework of stakes with twine trussed in between them is ideal.

The quality of flowers depends on the quality of the corms. Plump, high-neck corms with small root scars (at the base of the corm) produce far superior blooms than flat, wide corms with large root scars – so choose your corms by depth rather than width.

These easy-to-grow plants enjoy a very long flowering season. They will bloom over several months if you stagger planting and are excellent cut flowers.

Keep your plants well watered and mulched in summer. Lack of moisture often results in shorter spikes and smaller flowers. Plants don't need a lot of feeding through the growing season, but if you do feed avoid fertilisers high in nitrogen.

Gladioli have been extensively hybridised, and a wide range of ornamental flower colours are available from the many varieties. Take your pick from a raft of gorgeous colours – rich purples, deep reds, lavenders, lime greens, rosy colours and the prettiest pastel pinks (for white flower lovers try 'Snowboard'). There are bi-coloured blooms as well – flowers with blotches, stripes or picotee edges – and a choice of ruffled, waved or frilled petals in large-flowering or petite forms.

You may be able to leave corms in the ground to overwinter in your area but, if in doubt and where frosts are expected (freezing conditions can damage corms), lift them about six weeks after flowering and cut tops off about 2cm above corm. Brush off excess soil, then dry corms for a couple of weeks or more in a warm, well-ventilated room before removing the old 'mother' corm. The mother corm shrivels and dies each year, but one or more new corms form on top of it during the growing season. These can be planted the following season.



Granny's spring bonnet

Aquilegias, also known as granny's bonnets and columbines, are one of the first cottage perennials to flower in spring, sending up petticoat-shaped blooms on slender stems above dainty clumps of blue-green, scalloped, clover-like foliage.

Although hardy aquilegias can get a little out of control (self-seeding like crazy) they are still worth growing, especially if some effort is made to select out the colours and forms that result from their promiscuous ways. They bring a touch of grace to a border, take up little room and complement many other plant varieties.

Most aquilegias like moist soil, although it needs to be well-drained. They do best in partial shade but will also grow in full sun if soil is moisture retentive and full of well-rotted compost.

Plants can be divided in autumn or winter, or you can sow seed in spring or autumn.

When sowing aquilegia seed do it lightly, and cover seed with as little soil as possible – germination is improved by light.

Chilling seed in the fridge at 5 °C for three or four weeks before sowing greatly increases the chances of germination.

Trim the plants to the ground after flowering has finished – the quaint seed heads (like court jester hats and good for floral art) can be discarded before they ripen, avoiding any unwelcome seedlings. The plant will regrow quickly, forming fresh, healthy leaves.

Don't cut dead foliage to the ground in winter – leave it to form a protective crown over the growing points, preventing moisture from entering and rotting the plant. Once growth has restarted in spring, dead foliage can be removed.

Aquilegias look good planted in large drifts – this way they can be fully appreciated. If you haven't room for this effect, plant them in clumps at the front of a border or along paths where they can be seen to their best advantage.

If you want to grow more than one form of aquilegia, it's good sense to keep them apart as they will readily hybridise and become a bit wishy-washy, weedy and mixed in colour.

Hybrid varieties such as 'Lime Sorbet' flower in their first

summer, 12–15 weeks after sowing, from lime green buds to fully double frilly white flowers that resemble miniature clematis. However, older strains generally spend their first year bulking up their crowns.

'Nora Barlow' is an old favourite – it has heaps of double petals, a lack of spurs, and the flowers are suffused with pink, white and green (sometimes compared to mini dahlias).

If you like your aquilegias with long spurs look for the McKana hybrids. Known as 'McKana's Giants,' they bear showy 7.5cm flowers with 10cm spurs and come in a wide range of astonishing colours, including two-toned combos.

For something a little different but rather appealing try 'Aquilegia viridiflora,' a sweet-scented, old variety, introduced in 1902, and often referred to as 'Chocolate Soldier Aquilegia'. The plant grows to about 12 inches tall with unusual purplish-brown petals skirting attractive yellow-green sepals – bright chartreuse antlers add a finishing touch.



Ōtaki – Education Town

Playcentre: Parent-led learning through play

BY FRANK NEILL

One of the features that sets the Ōtaki Playcentre apart from other education providers is that it is parent led.

That means two things.

Firstly, parents usually stay with their tamariki while they are at Playcentre. While with their children at Playcentre, parents not only watch their children grow, they grow with them.

Secondly, parents are able to access education through the national Playcentre organisation, education that is nationally recognised and can lead to people qualifying as kaiako (educators).

The Ōtaki Playcentre, like all other playcentres in the country, is led by qualified kaiako. The Playcentre needs to have a certain number of qualified kaiako to qualify for ECE funding.

The children at the Ōtaki Playcentre learn through a wide variety of activities. These include arts and crafts, woodworking, puzzles, music, books, outdoor play, messy play and whānau play, where they play with their family in the whānau corner.

A big focus of the Ōtaki Playcentre is child-led play, the President of Ōtaki Playcentre, Eva Lotka, says. The children choose the activities they would like to do and the time they do them.

“It’s all about learning through play.

The Ōtaki Playcentre takes tamariki from newborn to school age; there is also a baby section, which includes a sleeping room with two cots.

Every Monday the Ōtaki Playcentre holds a nature session, where the Playcentre goes outdoors to locations such as the beach, the pine forest or a walk through the bush above Haruātai Park.

“It’s always different,” Eva says. “It’s really quite exciting. We explore places around Ōtaki, which is fun.

“We are also striving to be bicultural. We are encouraging use of Te Reo. We have a phrase of the week in Te Reo and we have a karakia before morning-tea each day.”

In addition, the Playcentre has waiata and poi, and one of the parents has donated two putanitangi – Māori musical instruments – that they made.

“Every parent contributes their knowledge and shares their knowledge of their cultures,” Eva says.

“The Playcentre motto is ‘welcome to our village’. That is what we try to live by – helping each other.”

Next year the Ōtaki Playcentre will celebrate its 70th anniversary. It opened on 2 June 1954 at what was then the Wesley Youth Hall, now the Rotary Lounge in Aotaki Street.

The Ōtaki Playcentre was the initiative of Enid Ross-Taylor. She began organising a Playcentre in Waikanae and then shifted to Ōtaki. Enid called a public meeting to inform families about the benefits of a Playcentre.



Ōtaki’s parents were fired up, rented the Wesley Youth Hall and bought equipment from a private, defunct Ōtaki Beach kindergarten, and the venture was born.

Enid was its first President.

The Ōtaki Playcentre affiliated with the Wellington Playcentre Association in July 1954. Just over 10 years later the Playcentre opened its own building, where it is still located, in Mill Road.

The Playcentre is currently working towards organising two fund-raising initiatives – one to provide concrete paths; the other to provide more woodworking tools.



Education and the elections

BY JIM MATHESON

If you wish to see improvement in the performance of our education system, the education policies of the major political parties are a disappointment. A preliminary review shows that none of them have a coherent vision for education nor an understanding of how to lead and implement system wide improvement.

Around the world many countries, including Aotearoa New Zealand are experiencing a decline in the performance of their education systems and are struggling to reshape their education systems to meet a rapidly changing world. As the OECD states:

“How can we prepare students for jobs that have not yet been created, to tackle societal challenges that we can’t yet imagine, and to use technologies that have not yet been invented? How can we equip them to thrive in an interconnected world where they need to understand and appreciate different perspectives and world views, interact respectfully with others, and take responsible action towards sustainability and collective well-being?”

Most young people are thriving in our schools, but there is general agreement that our education system as a whole is not performing as well as it should. In particular we have a highly inequitable system. The main burden of this is carried by students who are from low-income families and/or are of Māori or Pasifika descent. The challenge is how to do better for all in a rapidly changing world.

In 2018, The Tomorrow’s Schools Independent Taskforce did a full examination of our education system and produced a very comprehensive report on our strengths and weaknesses. They also outlined pathways to improvement. Unfortunately, the current government felt it did not have the political support to implement the required changes and the opposition have cherry-picked bits off it, failing to understand the integrated nature of the recommendations.

Improving education system performance is difficult. At its most fundamental, education success is founded on the interactions between teachers and students. Therefore, any programme of improvement has to be of sufficient intensity

and duration to influence those interactions. Most change efforts fail as they lack the necessary intensity, focus and alignment of effort.

There is considerable experience and research around the world on how to improve education system performance. Unfortunately, none of what our political parties are offering matches what is required.

The requirements for success in educational change are:

- a clear shared vision that is stable over time
- a multi-year sustained effort and investment
- a range of aligned initiatives across all aspects of the system
- initiatives that are a balance of research and practice, that are nationally coherent and locally responsive.

In the absence of any coherent national educational leadership, locally our kura and schools are engaging in a long-term collaboration under the banner of Te Kāhui Tokotoko o Ōtaki. The aim of this collaboration is all young people leaving schooling in Ōtaki have the skills, knowledge and attributes to make good decisions on the next step in their lives. This will involve:

- all learners knowing who they are, their history and their place. All will have a grounding in Raukawatanga as an essential element of growing up in Ōtaki.
- active participation in real contexts for learning such as using technology, growing food, planting trees, caring for our natural environment, and improving the state of our waterways.
- a curriculum that covers the whole journey of the learner through school. A curriculum that is integrated, purposeful, and coherent and engages all learners. A curriculum that builds competencies values and knowledge.

The questions posed by the OECD are relevant to our world in Ōtaki. Our collaboration gives us the foundation to explore how we shape our local response to that question, and we have no need to wait for our national politicians to catch up.

Ōtaki College School Board Casual vacancy for a parent representative

A casual vacancy has occurred on the school board for an elected parent representative.

The board has decided to fill the vacancy by selection.

If 10% or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the board, within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held.

Request for a by-election should be emailed to:

Penny Gaylor, Chair
Ōtaki College Board at
wvt@otakicollege.school.nz

or posted to:

Penny Gaylor
Ōtaki College Board Chair
PO Box 36
Ōtaki

by: Thursday 28 September



Ōtaki College News

September 2023

www.otakicollege.school.nz

From Principal Andy Fraser

Once again we have arrived at that critical time of the year for senior NCEA students. In Week Nine we will have derived-grade exams. These are vitally important because the grades obtained in these exams are the ones used by NZQA should any student be unable to attend their external exams due to sickness or injury. I would make a special request to all whānau to encourage and support your children to take time to study before these exams to get the best outcomes possible.

In light of the disruption to learning that students faced earlier in the year, we have a programme of NCEA catch-up classes available for students. The list of classes is available on our website: <https://www.otakicollege.school.nz/students/2023-ncea-catch-up-classes>. I would urge you discuss these opportunities with your child so that they make the most of the opportunities on offer, particularly in light of the approaching derived-grade examinations and upcoming external examinations.

New Pedagogies for Deep Learning (NPDL)

Ōtaki College staff have been learning and practising new ways to help our ākonga learn for the past few years. While we are still learning ourselves, it is time to share with you that we are making changes to shift from our current school structures and systems, introduced many years ago, to a more collaborative, student-led, teacher-guided way of learning for today's challenges.

We are part of a global network of schools and education professionals working to “Re-imagine learning” through New Pedagogies for Deep Learning (NPDL). This involves a shift in all our mindsets for how we engage our young people in the entire learning process. We aim to embrace the natural curiosity and energy of our rangatahi, and put them more at the centre of their own learning journeys. To quote Heraclitus, an ancient Greek philosopher, as “change is the only constant in life” it is time to shift Ōtaki College to a more innovative future-focused way of teaching and learning. Our innovative approaches will continue to include a strong focus on building the skills essential for being a lifelong learner – so our current focus on ensuring strong foundations of literacy and numeracy will remain an important part of what we are doing.

Sports Update

As I write, we have three teams heading into College Sport Wellington Division finals, our Ōtaki Tama Tuakana and ŌC Kotiro basketball teams and our Youth Football team. Congratulations to these teams for a superb season and very best of luck for the finals.

Winter Tournament season is upon us and we have a number of teams attending; OC Kohatu are off to the Lower Norths Netball Tournament; and we have football, netball and rippa teams heading to the Kāpiti Interschools Winter Tournament.

Good luck to all participants.

Can you help? We are hoping that more of our college whānau will consider helping support college sport. It can be as easy as helping transport our students, or a bigger commitment with coaching or managing teams. Please consider this as we need your help!

Andy Fraser, Principal

Careers Expo

On 26 July all our Year 10–13 students had the opportunity to attend the Kāpiti Coast Youth Careers Expo at Southwards, Paraparaumu. Despite the wintry weather, students and accompanying staff were able



to visit a variety of stands (there were over 50 different providers on the day), plus purchase different food and beverages.

Popular stands amongst the students included the universities, Police – which

included trying on police gear, experiencing a simulator and patting police puppies – Defence Careers; Go with Tourism; STS student exchanges; and the Wood Council. The jumping activity that the NZ Institute of Sport provided also proved very popular!

It was good to see the engagement and enthusiasm amongst our students that attended.

Steph Putt, Careers and Gateway Adviser



Outdoor Education

This term, Year 12 Outdoor Education completed their Alpine Trip up at Mount Ruapehu. With epic snow conditions, students were able to complete all assessment-based activities. These included ice-axe and crampon skills and – to top it off – sleeping in snowmounds that the students constructed. Thank you to Howard Manins for his assistance and the legendary Year 12 crew!

Kent Pollard, TiC Outdoor Education

ŌC senior boys football victorious

BY TRACEY HALL

Ōtaki College Senior Boys football team had a decisive grand-final match against Wainuiomata Saturday 26 August, with a 6–0 win.

Co-coached by Joseph Te Wiata and Kerry Bevan and captained by an ŌC Ngā Kākākura Head of School, Caleb Smith, they were unbeaten all season.

The team includes members who've been playing football together – predominantly for Ōtaki Sports Club junior football teams before the switch to college football – since they were five years old, and Kerry and Joseph have been right alongside them.

For around half of the team members, this was their last-ever college football match. They had a great turnout of supporters on the day, and were joined by many of them in a heart-felt haka after the College Sport Wellington Division-4 winners medals were awarded them.

Post match, Wainuiomata were welcomed into the Ōtaki Sports Club for speeches, karakia and kai. Joseph led the kōrero by thanking Wainuiomata for generously agreeing to travel to Ōtaki for the final, observing that the score didn't reflect the opposition's efforts and declaring the match "a game worthy of a grand final."

Wainuiomata's coach, Scott McLeod, responded graciously with thanks for hosting, and expressed pride in his team – some of whom are very new to Aotearoa New Zealand – and gratitude for "getting to play in sunshine and not mud." Scott observed that Ōtaki "kept the ball better and took more chances" on the day.

Caleb then led a karakia before the teams shared the prepared kai.

The team now want to shoot each other at a paintball venue, or the like, to truly mark the end of a superb season.



image credit: Tracey Smith

ŌTAKI JUNIOR TAG

REGISTER NOW!

- 12-Week Competition
- One Day Tournament
- Tuesday Afternoons
- Register a Team Today!

STARTS
Tue 24th Oct

GRADES
U'10s/U11s & U12s/13s

ŌTAKI DOMAIN, OTAKI
Jim Spiers Lane

MORE INFORMATION:

Jared Tuoro | 027 237 1446 | jared@mana-mind.com

Love Tennis an event for everyone

BY FRANK NEILL

Love Tennis is the theme of a weekend of entertainment at the Ōtaki Sports Club's tennis courts at Haruātai Park on 10 September. Open to anyone, the Love Tennis event runs from 10am to 4pm.

With activities such as ball machine; a service competition where people can win a prize by hitting a cone; and a "beat the interclub player" competition, the emphasis is on fun, not just tennis. In addition there will be mini tennis for beginners and younger ones and impromptu tennis coaching, and a court will be available for those who just want to have a hit.

The activities are not all that will be on offer. A barbecue will be available at no charge, plus there will be drinks, and tea and biscuits. Prizes will also be up for grabs in some of the activities, which aim to provide something for everyone.

As well as the spot prizes, everyone who registers at the event will go into a draw to win tickets to the 2024 Australian Open.

More information is available at <https://lovetennis.tennis.kiwi/index.html>.

Double finalist in tennis awards

The Ōtaki Sports Club was a double finalist in this year's Tennis Central Awards, presented 19 August.

The club was named as a finalist in the Club of the Year section, one of five clubs selected. This is the second year in a row that the Ōtaki Sports Club has been a double finalist. Adam Shelton was also named as a finalist in the Volunteer of the Year section – one of four finalists.

Although the Ōtaki Sports Club was not named as a winner in either category, its nomination is evidence of the great job the club is doing in the Ōtaki community.



love
tennis

FALL IN LOVE WITH
TENNIS!

NATIONWIDE

Sunday 10 September 2023 10am-
4pm

Two victories to complete season

BY FRANK NEILL

Ōtaki Kaeaea completed its first foray into Capital Football’s women’s first division with two victories.

After dominating the second division in round one of the 2023 competition, Kaeaea was promoted to division one.

They won their first encounter before a run of challenging matches against much more experienced opponents.

The two victories in their final two matches capped a very successful season for the team.

Kaeaea defeated Miramar Rangers seconds 2–1 on 20 August to complete their tally of games.

Despite the Miramar team holding a higher placing in the division one standings, Kaeaea outplayed them, with Fleur Hobson and Haley Bertelsen scoring goals.

Unsurprisingly, Haley was awarded three Most Valuable Player (MVP) points for the match.

Louisa Donnell was awarded two points and Shaneen Kane one point.

Victory also came Kaeaea’s way on 13 August when they defeated Wellington United Emeralds 2–1 at Haruātai Park.

The Ōtaki team had to make a come-back to win the match, however, after they went into the half-time break down 0–1.

Sarita Fulford scored the first goal for Kaeaea and Aria Epiha-Edwards netted the winning goal.

Christina Tuitupou-Timoteo was awarded three MVP points, Huia Paul two points and Kelsi Robertson one point.

But for a defensive lapse the Ōtaki team would have drawn its match with Island Bay on 6 August.

The lapse saw the ball fall at the feet of an Island Bay player who had an open goal in front of her and Island Bay won the match 3–2.

Aria was again on the score card and Lou Donnell also found the back of the net.

Shaneen was awarded three MVP points and Aria two points. Three players – Daniela Larenas, Rosa Green and Sarita – received one MVP point each.

Ōtaki’s top men’s team, Ōtaki Purutaitama, capped an outstanding season with a 1–1 draw over the Waikanae Jets on 12 August.

Purutaitama had already clinched victory in Horowhenua–Kāpiti’s top division.

The result of the team’s last match saw them complete the competition undefeated.

Purutaitama won 12 and drew two of the 14 matches they played. This saw them top the table with 38 points, seven points ahead of second-placed Kāpiti Coast United Hearts.

“We have had an amazing season,” Purutaitama’s coach Wakahuia Porter says. “We have had good growth and we have some really good guys involved who will grow our game going into the future.”

Two players – Chris Hawley-Stone and Travis Robertson – shared the Most Valuable Player Award at the Ōtaki men’s football prize-giving on 19 August.

Te Hau Cook-Porter won the Players Choice Award while Wakahuia Cook-Porter won the Most Improved Player Award.



above: Aria Epiha-Edwards kicks the winning goal for Ōtaki Kaeaea in their match against Wellington United Emeralds.



Ōtaki Purutaitama, Horowhenua–Kāpiti’s top division winners

Titan picks up two bronze medals

BY FRANK NEILL

Ōtaki Titan Noah Ireland-Spicer picked up two bronze medals the New Zealand Short Course Swimming Championships held at the Hawkes Bay Regional Aquatic Centre on 8 August. His two medal performances came in the 16-year-old age group.

Noah finished third in both the 50 metres freestyle and the 100 metres freestyle.

One of five Titans to compete in the event, Noah was joined as a top-10 finisher by two other Titans.

Phoebe Nelson hit the wall in fifth place in the open 50 metres freestyle, moving up one place from her sixth-fastest finisher in the heats.

Phoebe also swam well in the 100 metres freestyle final, finishing seventh.

Kokoro Frost picked up a ninth placing in the 50 metres butterfly.

The other two Titan swimmers, Imogen Waite and Greer Winter, both recorded personal best times in the championships.

Kokoro also featured in the World Swimming Championships, held in Fukuoka, Japan, from 23 to 31 July.

A member of the Samoan team, Kokoro broke his own Samoan national record in the 50 metres butterfly.

He was also a member of the Samoan team that broke their national record in the 4x100 metres relay.

Titans will feature in two upcoming events: Swim Wellington’s Relay Championships on 16 September; and Swim Wellington’s Junior Championships on 23 September.



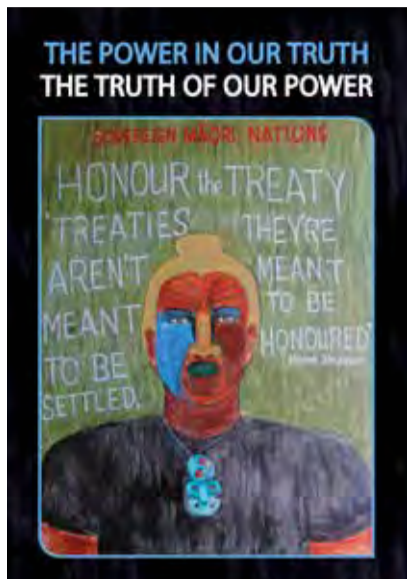
Ōtaki Titan, Noah Ireland-Spicer

ABC: Arts, Books Corner

The Power in Our Truth The Truth of Our Power

REVIEWED BY ANN CHAPMAN

Te Tākupu, Te Waanaga o Raukawa (TWO R), has recently published this book to celebrate the late Moana Jackson.



It was launched at a TWO R conference inspired by the work of Moana Jackson the weekend of 30 June – 1 July.

Thirty-five of his colleagues and friends have put together their memories of him and his significance in their lives and the history of Aotearoa New Zealand. It is a fine memorial to him.

Of the thirty-five essays, three are from Ngāti Raukawa, written with great beauty,

compassion and sense of loss by Dean Hapeta, Te Huia Bill Hamilton and Ani Mikaere. There are three essays by Pakeha Jane Kelsey, Robin Peace and David Williams, and one by Mengzhu Fu of Chinese origin.

In this collection of memories, his friends and colleagues reflect on the breadth and depth of his contribution, to them personally and to the wider world. Collectively they bring Moana Jackson back to life so that those of us who didn't know of him or his work can appreciate his contribution to the history of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The title, *The Power in our Truth – The Truth of Our Power*, is taken from one of Moana's many observations over the years and was delivered in 2012 at a conference that encouraged participants to explore the contemporary expression of Tikanga.

Available from Books & Co, Main Road, Ōtaki.

Sweeney Todd: Opening night

REVIEWED BY PENELOPE HAINES

Sweeney Todd, performed by the Ōtaki Players, is a wonderfully dark, gruesome musical thriller and Stephen Sondheim's best-known and most famous work. The score is melodic and lyrical, the plot richly twisted and nuanced, and the humour robust and ghastly in turns.

The character of Sweeney Todd first appeared in 1846 in a Victorian penny-dreadful titled *The String of Pearls*, published in 18 parts. It was so successful the story was turned into a play even before the ending was released in print! In the years since, there have been several new iterations of the story, but all contain the original plot elements. Sondheim's addition of a musical score advanced the work from its penny-dreadful origins, adding sophistication and more theatrical weight to the drama.

The title character, Sweeney Todd, arrives back in London after serving a 15-year sentence for a crime he did not commit. After he discovers his wife is dead and his daughter abducted by the evil judge Turpin, he resumes his trade as a barber, a career well suited to his hunger for revenge. In that role, he hopes to find the opportunity to exact his vengeance on the man who destroyed his life.

Sweeney's blood-thirsty rage becomes so overwhelming it indiscriminately encompasses anyone who opposes him, and soon, a problem presents itself: what to do with the resultant bodies?

Fortunately, his barbershop is right above a struggling meat pie store whose proprietress, more than a little in love with Sweeney, is happy to help dispose of inconvenient corpses.

One of the joys for this reviewer has been watching Ōtaki Players grow in their musical work as they undertake more ambitious and demanding productions each year. They have succeeded admirably, to their credit, and this production of *Sweeney Todd*, directed by Peter Carr, is no exception.

Sondheim's music is always rich, with highly complex rhythms and counterpoints. As musical directors, Graham Orchard and Andrea King have worked well with their talented cast and led them through a demanding score,

Te Kuia me te Pūngāwerewere tour timed for Te Wiki o te reo Māori this September

Taki Rua Productions is excited to present *Te Kuia me te Pūngāwerewere* in a highly engaging, 25-minute piece of theatre in te reo Māori specially for preschool-aged tamariki and their whānau. Suitable for young children of all backgrounds, *Te Kuia me te Pūngāwerewere* is on tour from 4 September to 20 September 2023.

Inspired by the beloved children's story *The Kuia and the Spider* by Patricia Grace with illustrations by Robyn Kahukiwa, Jamie McCaskill's original Te Reo Māori Season play has been shortened with under 5yos in mind.

Performed completely in te reo Māori, *Te Kuia me te Pūngāwerewere* is the untold story of the Kuia and her relationship with Pūpai the spider. While in the midst of their daily bickering, Kuia and Pūpai are suddenly transported from their home in Paekākāriki into the world of spiders. There, they must work together to save Spider World from the human world's suburban sprawl.

The 3-week tour opens at Māoriland Hub in Ōtaki on 4 September before touring Te Papaioea Palmerston North, Waipukurau, Paharakeke Flaxmere, Heretaunga Hastings (in partnership with Toitō for Te Wiki o te reo Māori), Ahuriri Napier, Wairoa and Tūranganui-a-Kiwa Gisborne.

Tickets are on sale now. Visit takirua.co.nz for our tour schedule and booking details.

And for those in Wellington, Te Papa is hosting two whānau performances of *Te Kuia me te Pūngāwerewere* on Thursday 31 August. Visit their website at <https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/visit/whats-on/events/te-kuia-me-te-pungawerewere> for more details.



getting powerful and convincing performances from soloists and ensemble.

Any actor must face questions in the titular role of Sweeney Todd. Is he the tragic victim of a corrupt society and, therefore, to be pitied, or is he a blood-crazed psychopath so fixated on violent retribution he has lost his humanity? In this production, Dominic van den Berg competently handles the contradictions inherent in his role. His powerful voice, character-based acting, and enormous stage presence suggest a solid, dramatic future for this young man.

His partner-in-crime, Tracy Wills-Wright, as Mrs. Lovett, undoubtedly enjoys the plum part in the drama. Her role provides light relief in an otherwise ghoulish blood-fest. Her humour is earthy, and her morals are entirely self-centred. Tracy is a seasoned veteran, having worked in many theatres on the Kāpiti Coast and Horowhenua. Her experience makes her exuberant portrayal of such a seriously flawed character a delight.

The young lovers, played by Miles Harrington and Frankie Viludlich, were charming and more than competent in their roles. Both had lovely voices that met the demands of Sondheim's duets and quartets.

Signor Adolfo Pirelli, played by Tua Faavale, was a crowd favourite. He made the most of every humorous line.

Nick Edwards' grim portrayal of Judge Turpin was critical, both to the arc of Sweeney's story and to positioning the work in Victorian England's grim, industrial development. Nick showed the audience a man so corrupted and confused by his power that he could justify sending his ward to an insane asylum when she spurned his advances. In their absolute amorality, Sweeney and Turpin had become equal and opposites.

It was an exciting use of theatrical space to have a small

New Zealand Chinese Language Week 2023: Connecting through Culture

Established to encourage New Zealanders to learn more about Chinese language and culture, New Zealand Chinese Language Week is in its 9th year and Chairperson Jo Coughlan is encouraging anyone with an interest in China and Chinese languages to get involved.

Schools, businesses and community groups have events underway to celebrate NZCLW (New Zealand Chinese Language Week) around the country. Teaching assistants from China have arrived back in New Zealand and are working with schools through the Confucius Institutes, providing a welcome boost to schools' language learning efforts.

"It's been hugely rewarding to see participation in NZCLW grow over the past nine years" says Jo.

We think this reflects the diverse nature of our society and the willingness of Kiwis to embrace and learn more about different cultures.

This year the NZCLW Trust will distribute more than 3500 copies of a tri-lingual children's book – *Weka's Waiata* – free of charge to schools and public libraries around New Zealand. *Weka's Waiata* is produced in Mandarin Chinese, Te Reo Māori, and English, and will be available online and as an audio book.

"We have published seven tri-lingual children's books and are proud to have donated around 20,000 books to schools and libraries nationwide. These books have been very well-received and welcomed as a valuable resource by parents, teachers, and librarians," Jo says.

"It's exciting to see how many events and activities are being planned for the week and it's great to have such vibrancy and enthusiasm for learning more about Chinese language and culture."



chorus use the boxes. This mirrored the young lovers using the box on the opposite side of the theatre.

The more minor roles and the chorus handled the demanding score competently. The sheer complexity of the music occasionally made this reviewer wish there were surtitles, as some of the subtleties of text and music were hard to hear.

The set was highly effective: A simple set of steps on one side and a complex barber shop/ pie shop arrangement on the other. The set allowed for unfettered movement by the chorus, focusing attention on the protagonists in their discrete spaces.

Lighting was critical in this production and essential in building and maintaining tension. Costumes were simple, effective and important.

Altogether one of the most demanding and sophisticated musical productions Otaki Players Society has embarked on, and I highly recommend it. If you like black humour, red blood and villainous behaviour, then this is the show for you.

STORAGE NEEDED URGENTLY

The Ōtaki Players Society urgently need the assistance of our local community.

Kāpiti Coast District Council, the owners of the Civic Theatre in Ōtaki have advised the Ōtaki Players Society to vacate the Theatre while earthquake strengthening takes place at the Civic, for up to two years.

This means that the Society needs to find storage for the large volume of lighting & technical equipment, costumes, curtains and seating that the Ōtaki Players currently own.

Unfortunately, if the Society have to pay full lease fees for storage suitable for the size we need, it will cripple the Society financially and could force the society to no longer be able to function.

If you can offer or suggest a suitable storage venue, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact: graham@otakiplayers.nz

Ngā arotakenga mai i Te Whare Whakamatau o Ōtaki



Te Wehenga by Mat Tait - winner of this year's Children's Book Awards



He kōrero tūāpapa tēnei mō Ranginui rāua ko Papatūānuku. He reo Māori, he reo Pākehā hoki ā te pukapuka nei, otirā, he māori te kōrero. Ki ahau, ko te hua tuatahi ko te mihi whakataki me ngā karakia; kei reira ka kitea ngā kokonga whare o te ringatoi. Kātahi ka kitea ngā kupu e rere tahi ana kei waenga i ngā pikitia. Ahakoa ētehi wā he uaua te pānui, ko ia kupu rehurehu me he kōhimuhimu anō o te pitomata o taua wā – ka mutu pea te toi. Ko te wairua o te pukapuka ko te toipoto, ā, ko te whaimana me ngā tini āhuatanga o te ao. Ko te tūmanako ia, noho ai tēnei pukapuka ki te pae pukapuka o taku kāinga. Ka mākinakina te kiri mō te pukapuka i muri mai!

All the broken places by John Boyne



This is the sequel to the amazing The boy in striped pyjamas. John Boyne uses words well and it's not a book you can rush. The main character Gretel is a tortured soul, unable to rid herself of guilt that is not hers to have. My heart went out to Gretel as she tried to navigate her life to prove things are best hidden. It doesn't go great for her but I ask myself what could or would I choose. Insightful moments about child/parent relationships too. Sombre, but a great read that will linger in your mind.

A word a day, illustrated by Julia Murray



If you are anything like me and despairing over the reducing level of children's vocabulary these days, then this may be the book for you and your child! A Word A Day has a year's worth of great words along with their meaning, pronunciation, and the origins of the word. Some of them even reflect the seasons, or you have words like 'suffragette' featuring on International Women's Day. So, grab this book for your clever little logophiles and show everyone the depth of the English language by using all the weird and wonderful words from it!

Pop in and see us or find us online

[facebook.com/kapiticoastdistrictlibraries](https://www.facebook.com/kapiticoastdistrictlibraries) [kapiticoast.govt.nz/libraries](https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/libraries)



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@tvgs.co.nz
 269 Mill road, Otaki, 5512



OTAKI IN THE NEWS ~ 1901

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

January 1

An infant born in Otaki while its father was away in South Africa at the seat of war was recently christened "Zealandia Africander."

January 4

By Telegraph – Special to Daily Times.

Mr Morgan Carkeek's appointment as one of the representatives of the Government on the Survey Board has given satisfaction here. Personally, I think this appointment is an excellent one. I have known Mr Carkeek for over thirty years, and he has an excellent reputation as a surveyor, having had wide experience. I consider his is one of the best appointments the Government has made for a long time.

I hear that Sergeant Freeman, of the Otaki Mounted Rifles, has applied for inclusion in the Sixth Contingent for South Africa.

The following are the vital statistics for the quarter ending 31st ult.: Births 15; marriages 6, deaths 3. For the year just ended the following are the totals:- Births 72; marriages 12; deaths 13; of the last mentioned number, five were infants. Three met their deaths by drowning. Four died at the age of sixty-five and upwards.

The dawn of the New Year and of the Twentieth Century was celebrated in a quiet manner. I am pleased to say the idiotic acts of larrikins have not to be complained of to any extent.

The Jubilee Hotel buildings were beautifully illuminated during the evening; the effect was most striking. The Pukekaraka Hill (behind the Catholic Church) was also most effectively illuminated with Venetian lights. On New Year's Day the Otaki beach was largely patronised.

Our town still keeps up its reputation as a holiday resort, a large number of visitors making for here during the recent holiday.

January 10

The Otaki Natives who have been at the Christchurch Exhibition celebrations for some time, returned to Otaki on Saturday last. They are highly pleased with the way in which they were treated down South.

January 15

Mr Harper, solicitor, met with an accident at Otaki on Sunday, caused as follows: -Two vehicles collided in the street through the horses being frightened by the Salvation Army drum. Mr Harper went to hold one of the horses, while the occupants alighted. In doing so the horse reared and struck Mr Harper in the face with its knee, causing serious injuries.

January 19

The public of Otaki take a lively interest in the hospital, and show it in a practical manner. Mr Kirk has presented the nursing staff with a trap and harness, which Mr H. Freeman put in order, and Dr and Mrs Mason, who have left Otaki, gave one of their horses. Mrs E.T. Atkinson also presented the hospital with a nice organ.

February 22

At a meeting of Otaki and Manukau dairy farmers on Tuesday afternoon it was decided to start a factory to be called the Otaki-Manukau Dairy Factory, with a capital of £3000, of 1500 shares at £2 each. The milk of

500 cows has been promised, but these have to be guaranteed. However, the concern will probably be floated successfully. The provisional directors are Messrs. Staples, Atkin, and Hanlon (Manukau), and James, Thompson, and Mitchell, of Otaki. Mr. Gallichan is secretary.

March 8

We gather from the Otaki Mail that a postal anomaly to which attention was called in our columns some time ago still obtains— viz , that letters posted at Te Horo for delivery in Otaki four miles distant, take two days in transit, being carried either to Wellington or Palmerston, and then sent back to their destination. The Te Horo settlers propose to petition the Postmaster-General on the subject.

March 22

The Otaki Athletic Club will hold its annual sports meeting on Wednesday next. The entries received are satisfactory, and include the names of several well-known competitors. The handicaps will appear in the "Times" Supplement of Saturday next. The programme includes the usual athletic events, also a tug-of-war, tilting in the ring, climbing greasy pole, quoits and other competitions. The Otaki Maori Brass Band has been engaged, and given fine weather a good day's sport can be anticipated.

March 30

A slight sensation was caused in Otaki on Thursday morning last, when it was rumoured that the Telegraph Hotel had been burglariously entered during the night, and several articles stolen. It appears that Mrs De Vere, the proprietress, closed her hotel punctually at 10 p.m. on Wednesday, the day of the Otaki Sports, and shortly afterwards the household retired for the night. On arising at 6 a.m. next morning it was discovered

the storeroom had been entered during the night. The fastening of the door had been smashed, evidently by a crowbar, and the door opened. On investigation, it was found that several bottles of case spirits, and also a number of flasks, had been stolen. The thin paper wrappings of the bottles were strewn about on the floor, the thief or thieves evidently sampling the liquors before leaving the hotel.

April 6

The European population of the town of Otaki consists of 152 males and 120 females.

April 10

Mrs Hera Tuku Hangahanga, of Katihiku, Otaki, of the celebrated Ngatihuia tribe, is stated to be 105 years old.

April 11

A sharp frost was felt this morning, and vegetables suffered severely.

Chicken-pox is very prevalent amongst children in Otaki.

April 13

A golf club has recently been formed in Otaki and a very fair eleven hole course is being laid out. The club hopes to start play in about three weeks' time. The ground has been lent to the club, and although they are only going in for eleven holes at present, there is plenty of room to lay out a full course later on. The links are close to the town. The Otaki golfers will be glad to meet any visitors from Wellington, and be pleased to receive any hints from players who may visit them. Mr G. Pearce Baldwin is acting as hon. Secretary pro tem.

April 27

An Otaki resident has been fined £1 and costs £2 6s for shooting a native pigeon, contrary to the Act.

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ŌTAKI MUSEUM AGM

The Ōtaki Museum Trust will soon be holding its Annual General Meeting.

The meeting will cover:

- Presentation of the Annual Report and Financial report
- Presentation for adoption of the name, Trust Deed and structure of the new heritage organisation formed by joining the Museum Trust with the Ōtaki Historical Society.
- Launch of this year's *Ōtaki Historical Journal*.
- Election of trustees to govern the new trust's activities.

You are warmly invited to attend:

**Sunday 8 October, 2pm at the
Museum, 49 Main St, Ōtaki.**

Please contact us for more information, if you're interested in standing for the Board of Trustees, or if you'd like to join our group of volunteers:

Media Muse

By Manakau's Tom Frewen

Wake me when it's over. This election campaign is worse than being forced to watch a month of Harvey Norman's TV commercials back-to-back, a day of highlights of women's football nil-all draws and a washing machine with political parties as socks and underpants going round and round and round on a permanent spin cycle.

Okay, maybe I exaggerate a little. But I'm sure you get my drift. So far, the media's pre-election coverage, or "analysis" as they prefer to dignify their prejudiced speculations, wild guesses and frontal-lobe conjecturing, has done nothing to alter the certainty that right up until polling day on Saturday 14 October the outcome will be too close to call. Or not. [Pre-election polling in 2020 failed to predict Labour winning an outright majority of seats in the House for the first time since the Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) replaced first-past-the-post in 1996.] So not just "Bugger the Polls" as National prime minister, Jim Bolger, memorably said after narrowly winning the 1993 general election, but "Yah Boo Sucks" to them as well.

While MMP provides two votes – one to choose a local candidate and the other to be cast for a party, their votes combining to provide a set of numbers determining the composition of the next House of Representatives – journalists and politicians are only interested in the composition of the next government. All the political editors are women (just saying) although many of the commentators are men. Among them, Matthew Hooton, who writes weekly for the Australian-owned NZ Herald and website, where his premium content is protected behind their paywall, opined on Friday 3 February this year when Labour

overtook National in both TV polls, that "the all-important narrative has changed from inevitable Labour defeat to dead-heat".

So, too close to call way back then. But this "all-important narrative": what is it and why is it all-important? A narrative is just a fancy word for a story and telling stories is what journalists and commentators like Hooton do to earn a crust. If they didn't tell stories, and if politicians didn't provide stories for them to tell, they'd all be in comms and writing their novels.

As well as having a beginning and an end, stories need plot development to maintain reader interest. Forward momentum for political media is provided by regular polling yielding a snap shot of the likely composition of the House at the time the poll was conducted. These numbers then provide a basis for speculating on possible coalition arrangements, a game of musical chairs in which party leaders are invited to rule out parties that they are not prepared to work with.

Although it provides hours of innocent amusement, ruling out is a total waste of time because it is not a decision that can be made until the final result of the election is declared. Only then can party leaders begin to look for partners should they needed to form a majority.

The set of numbers that voters deliver may force parties to work together or force another – costly – election. Although they cannot consciously determine the outcome, it is voters who have the final say.

The Parliamentary Press Gallery, like children on Christmas Eve dying to unwrap their presents, can't wait for the voters to do their bit. A year out from polling day,

the political media start feeding polling data into their crystal balls. The number of polls and their frequency steadily increase as organisations, such as the Taxpayers' Union, join mainstream media using the polls as marketing and branding tools.

News media, drawing on their limited vocabulary of cliches and soundbites, then start reporting the election as a race. The commentary picks up speed and becomes feverish as the parties and their riders round the bend and enter the final straight. With the finish line now in sight – just 55 days away – the countdown begins.

The 2023 election reached this point on Monday 21 August when TVNZ's poll showed Labour down to 29%; National up to 37%; ACT up 1% to 13%; the Greens up 2% to 12%; New Zealand First up 1% to 4%; and the Māori Party steady on 3%. Converted into MPs in the House, the poll gave a National-ACT coalition of 65, 13 more than Labour and the Greens.

TVNZ's political editor, Jessica Mutch McKay, like the brightest girl in the fourth form of a private girls' school who's just swallowed the internet and can't wait to tell us all about it, described this poll as a "big moment", the first to show Labour below 30% and in the polling doldrums of the dreaded 20 percents.

"Labour are gonna have to dig it in [sic] and really fight now," she said, donning her political-strategist hat, "we heard them using the phrase 'underdog', and they're going to be using it over and over again to try and keep their supporters motivated."

McKay described this poll as a "big moment", the first major poll in this election with Labour in the 20s and narrowed preference numbers between Hipkins and Luxon.

Labour would have to "grind it out" with Hipkins at the party's helm as, unlike before the 2017 election, she said, there is "no Jacinda Ardern waiting in the wings."

If Chippy's predecessor, Dame Jacinda, was Labour's Barbie, does that make him her best friend Ken or, even, Ken's best friend Allan? This is the sort of profound, deep-drilling question that you might expect from Mike Hosking or Stuff's political editor, Luke Malpass. "Hipkins Mr 29% in latest Damascene conversion" was the headline over Malpass's post-poll comment "analysis" in The Lost Post on Tuesday 22 August. Funny name for a poll – Damascene – which describes a sudden and complete change in belief as experienced by Paul the Apostle on the road to Damascus, Syria's capital.

Reflecting the challenges that political editors face trying to find bizarre new twists when writing the same story day after day, Malpass summoned up his inner novelist.

"With two weeks of Parliament to go, the gloves are now off," he began his pre-poll analysis in The Lost Post on Monday 21 August. "The gloves are now off," he repeated in the next paragraph for readers with short attention spans, "and all parties are now putting policies out in the wild and smashing those of other parties they don't agree with.

"For political operatives, this is the most fun every three years. Giving and taking punches with the hope of besting your opponent is all part of the fun."

Silly me, thinking the election was something to do with democracy and filling the 120 seats in our House of Representatives with a new configuration of MPs and political parties for the next three years until we go through the same exercise again.

Oh well, with the FIFA Women's World Cup now behind us, we can look forward to the All Blacks bringing home the all-important Rugby World Cup and the Warriors adding more victories to their extraordinary and thrilling winning streak. Go the Wahs!

KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL
MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER 2023

Tuesday, 5 September 2023	Grants Allocation Committee (Heritage Fund) Meeting	1.30pm	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 5 September 2023	Raumati Community Board Meeting	7:00pm	Puoro 1, Te Raukura ki Kāpiti, 34A Raumati Road, Raumati Beach
Tuesday, 5 September 2023	Briefing: Submission on "Connect the dots" Regional view of Horizon's passenger transport	12:30pm	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday, 7 September 2023	Campe Estate Committee Meeting	9.30am	Mayor's Office, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday, 7 September 2023	Grants Allocation Committee (Creative Communities New Zealand) Meeting	9.30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 12 September 2023	Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti	9.30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 12 September 2023	Waikanae Community Board Meeting	7:00pm	Waikanae Community Centre, Utauta Street, Waikanae
Thursday, 14 September 2023	Strategy, Operations and Finance Committee Meeting	9:30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday, 14 September 2023	Social Sustainability Subcommittee Meeting	1.30pm	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 19 September 2023	Climate and Environment Subcommittee Meeting	9.30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 19 September 2023	Ōtaki Community Board Meeting	7.00pm	Gertrude Atmore Supper Room, Memorial Hall, Main Street, Ōtaki
Thursday, 21 September 2023	Risk and Assurance Committee Meeting	9.30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday, 21 September 2023	Briefing: Long-term Plan (LTP) 2024/2034 Briefing 2	1.30pm	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu

Attendance at Meetings

- Cancellation** - Meetings may be cancelled for a variety of reasons. Not all cancellations can be readvertised. To confirm whether a meeting is occurring, refer to our website or ring the Manager Democracy Services on (04) 296 4700 or toll free on 0800 486 486.
- Venue** - Please note that all meetings will be held in the Council Chambers, Civic Administration Building, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu, unless otherwise specified.
- Public Forum** - a 30-minute session may be held before every Council and Strategy, Operations and Finance committee meeting (9.00 am – 9.30 am) if requests to speak have been received. During public forum attendees can speak on any topic. Bookings are essential. Please book ahead with the Democracy Services Team – an online booking form can be found on our website.
- Public Speaking Time** - Under Council's Standing Orders, members of the public may request to speak on any items relating to agenda items. If you wish to request to speak, **please book ahead** with the Democracy Services team.
- Live-streaming**: Council and Committee meetings are live-streamed.
- Agendas** are available two days before the meeting at:
 - Our website www.kapiticoast.govt.nz;
 - Council's Libraries and Service Centres.

Darren Edwards, Chief Executive

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Youthline	0800 376 633
Alcohol Drug Helpline	0800 787 797
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Menzshed	06 364 8303
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Ōtaki Rangiatea Church
33–37 Te Rauparaha St
Sunday Eucharist: 9am
Church viewing hours, school terms:
Mon–Fri, 9.30am – 1.30pm
Tel: 364 6838
Email: rangiatega.church@xtra.co.nz

Waikanae Whakarongotai Marae
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ŌSLSC: Training continues through winter months

BY SHELLY WARWICK



Our dedicated Surf club volunteers do not just do the mahi over the summer at the beach, their work starts way before this with training in the pool and sea prior to the season. There are many hours put in by our volunteers throughout the year to enable them to be qualified, upskilled and physically fit enough to be part of the beach patrol in summer.

The last few weekends for our volunteers have been spent doing full First Aid courses and refreshers and Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) training. On the weekend of 19 and 20 August we had local clubbies braving wild sea conditions to be involved in IRB instructor training in Himatangi and also IRB driver and crewperson training and exams in Foxton.

Prior to this, the crew trainees have been training in the ocean at Ōtaki beach every Sunday morning for the last three months with Head instructor Sam Gilpin. Being a surf lifeguard is not just about looking the part at the beach in summer; there are months of training beforehand to ensure our team at Ōtaki Surf Club are able to do the job required of them to keep our beachgoers safe over summer.

Six of our clubbies sat the crewperson exam that weekend – the majority of them only 15 years old. A crewperson sits at the front of the IRB holding the bow rope and balanced on the pontoon (one foot in a foot strap). You have to be a qualified lifeguard to sit the theory-and-practical exam, and it involves showing proficiency at crewing through rough seas, adjusting position for

the best weight distribution for the waves, and the ability to perform rescues in different situations.

The crewperson has to know how to handle an unconscious patient, get them into the IRB and safely to the beach, then out of the IRB and into the recovery position. They must know all the signals, how to use a radio, how to right a flipped boat using the rope, and be able to climb back into the boat unassisted when out of their depth.

They also need to know how to run-down a motor, thoroughly wash down all equipment at the end of every patrol, deflate check and pack down a boat, and how to re-inflate it to the correct pressure and ensure all safety equipment is on board.

They must know how to safely fill the fuel bladder and attach it (and know the correct fuel mix), check the motor is attached correctly and propellers are in good order, and how to start and run in the motor before a patrol.

So, when you see your local surf patrol, volunteering over the summer months, know that there have been many hours of training and preparation, over the cold winter months, in big surf and harsh winds, to be able to serve the community at the beach. Well done to our new IRB crewpersons and drivers, and thanks to the dedicated “old hands” who are there to guide the next generation through.

This is a big responsibility for our Surf Club volunteers and our community should be proud of the dedication and work put in by them.



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