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October 2023

Firefighters honoured for their service

BY FRANK NEILL



Ōtaki firefighters were recognised for their service at the Fire Brigade’s honours evening on 16 September.

Two firefighters – Simon Black and Ben Carson – were presented the New Zealand Fire Brigade’s Long Service and Good Conduct Medals by Matt Franklin, the Acting Assistant Commander of the Wellington Fire District.

This medal is awarded to firefighters who have completed 14 years of meritorious service.

It is bestowed under a Royal Warrant to firefighters to recognise their invaluable service to the community.

“We do this job because we really do care for our community, our whānau,” Simon told the *Ōtaki Mail* after he received his medal.

“When you save lives and you save houses and you make a difference to lives, it makes it all

above: recipients of awards for their service to firefighting with the two presenters (from left) Bob Strong, Mike Watson, Ben Carson, Simon Black, Kieran Bloxham, Donny Watson, Brent Bythell, Matt Franklin and Gavin LaFrenz.

worthwhile,” he said, referring to the many hours volunteer firefighters give to the community. They are on call day and night, when they may need to drop everything and respond to a callout.

More than 80 per cent of New Zealand’s firefighters are volunteers, he noted.

“The contribution of all of us in this country is absolutely incredible.

“There are so many different aspects to fire fighting. We do much more than fire fighting.” That also includes attending medical emergencies and fire-alarm activations.

“It truly is emergency services,” he said.

Simon was living in Foxton Beach when he first became a firefighter and served there for almost two years before moving to Waikanae. After about five and a half years with the Waikanae Vounteer Fire Brigade he moved to Ōtaki and joined the brigade here.

Along with the hard mahi, there are also benefits to joining the fire brigade, Simon said. “You pick up a lot of life skills,” and the brigade “is just like family.

“It is just so enoyable [being part of the Ōtaki brigade] because of the people.

“We help each other in all aspects of our lives.”
(continued page 2)



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Firefighters honoured *(continued from front page)*

BY FRANK NEILL

“It’s a complete family in itself,” he said. Providing invaluable community service is also the reason Ben Carson is a volunteer firefighter.

“I’m a proud member [of the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade],” he said.

“And I’m proud to serve the community.”

All of Ben’s 14 years of service has been with the Ōtaki brigade.

Five firefighters were presented silver bars to their five-year service medal by Bob Strong, the Past President of the Wellington, Hutt Valley and Kāpiti Fire Brigade Sub Association.

Brent Bythell was presented his silver bar for 52 years’ service, Mike Watson for 21 years’ service, Donny Watson for 19 years’ service and Kieran Bloxham and Gavin LaFrentz for 9 years’ service each.

Four firefighters have also received service honours, but were not present at the honours evening.

Gaylene Rogers has been awarded the five-year service medal, and three silvers bars have been awarded to Callum McMurchie for 17 years’ service, Geoff Warwick for 13 years’ service and Mike Alderton for 9 years’ service.

The five-year service medal and the silver bar are awarded by the United Fire Brigades Association.

Following the presentation, Ōtaki Community Board Chair Cam Butler thanked the award recipients for their service to the community.

“These guys are fantastic,” he said.

“When the fire siren goes off, they drop everything to respond.

“That’s why Ōtaki is so lucky to have you.

“At the drop of a hat you have to leave your safety and go.

“We can’t say ‘thank you’ enough for the amount of work you guys do.



“Thank you very much from the community and the Ōtaki Community Board,” Mr Butler said.

above: just after receiving their Long Service and Good Conduct Medals are Ben Carson (left) and Simon Black (centre), with Matt Franklin, who presented them the medals.

Get help if it’s difficult to pay your bills

Sponsored content

BY FLEUR HOBSON

The rise in the cost of living and in interest rates on home loans over recent months has also led to an increase in the number of people facing insolvency.

Insolvency is when you don’t have enough money to pay the bills.

The fact that more people are facing insolvency has been highlighted in the August Credit Indicator produced by Centrix.

This showed that vehicle-loan arrears had hit a three-year high, increasing to 6% of active accounts.

Mortgage arrears remain up, year-on-year, after the lows recorded in 2022, and credit-card arrears had increased to 4.3%.

“The number of people behind on payments rose to 426,000 [in July], compared to 414,000 only a month ago,” Centrix said.

Insolvency can, and often does, lead to a series of problems. It can, for example, lead to you losing your house, because if you fail to make your mortgage payments your lender – usually a bank – can issue a Property Law Act (PLA) Notice.

A PLA Notice is issued when a number of loan payments have been missed, and is an official notice from your lender to precede a mortgagee sale.

The lender must give you at least four weeks’ notice of the nature and extent of your default and the date this must be remedied by.

Failure to make payments to others you owe money to, such as your credit-card provider or car-loan provider, can also lead to issues such as repossession and penalty interest rates.

It has also led, for some people, to a Court declaring them bankrupt.

If a person is made bankrupt the Official Assignee has control over everything they own (except things like clothes and household appliances), and can sell them to pay off the debts.

There are, however, steps you can take if you are having trouble paying your bills, or if you have reached the point where you cannot pay them.

You can, for example, restructure your loans so that you can afford to make the payments.

This may, and usually does, involve a negotiation with your lender or lenders.

The best first step to take is to get good advice.

A good lawyer can negotiate a way forward with your lender or lenders.

They can, for example, negotiate an increase in the length of the loan, so the repayments are smaller.

You can also ask a budget advisor or a financial planner for assistance.

The most important thing if you are struggling to pay your bills is to take action. If you don’t, then you will face consequences like insolvency or a mortgagee sale.

It is best if you take action before you have

received a default notice from your lender – such as a PLA Notice in the case of a default on your mortgage payments.

And it is definitely time to act if you have received such a notice.

A good first step to take if you are having trouble paying your bills, or you have received a notice, is to get advice from a lawyer.

For expert advice, whatever your issue, contact Fleur, Susie or Freya at Hobson Mills Law:

ph (06) 364 7190

282 Mill Road – opposite Farmlands.

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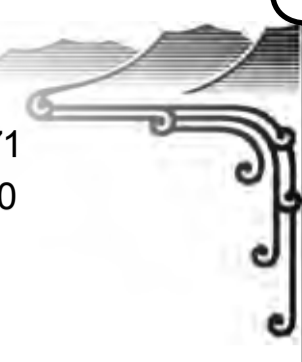
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BY VIVIENNE BAILEY

A Paddy's Mart triumph

The main fundraiser for Te Horo School, the annual Paddy's Mart again attracted crowds (around 2000) from far and wide to the school grounds, helped by a sunny day and the fair's usual buzzy vibe.

Supported by the local community, including the team from major sponsor Ōtaki's Kelly & Co, it was a significant triumph for the Home and School Committee, in particular, Chair Angela Gadsby who led the organising team.

Input (time, effort and energy) from the Te Horo School community, parents, caregivers, teachers, families and children also contributed to the mammoth undertaking. Although traditionally a successful event, this year's Paddy's Mart raised \$45,509 – a record-breaking total.

Drinks and Nibbles

Te Horo Hall has been the venue for the

community's monthly Friday evening BYO Drinks and Nibbles since its inception in late 2007 (although discontinued during the government's COVID-19 restrictions).

"We have a growing number of locals now joining us," said Judy Wood, Te Horo Hall Society secretary. "With summer around the corner, the outdoor deck provides a sheltered sunny spot to relax, laugh and swap stories."

Drinks and Nibbles continues to be a great way to catch up or make new connections within the community, "a low-key, relaxed way for newcomers to Te Horo to meet others."

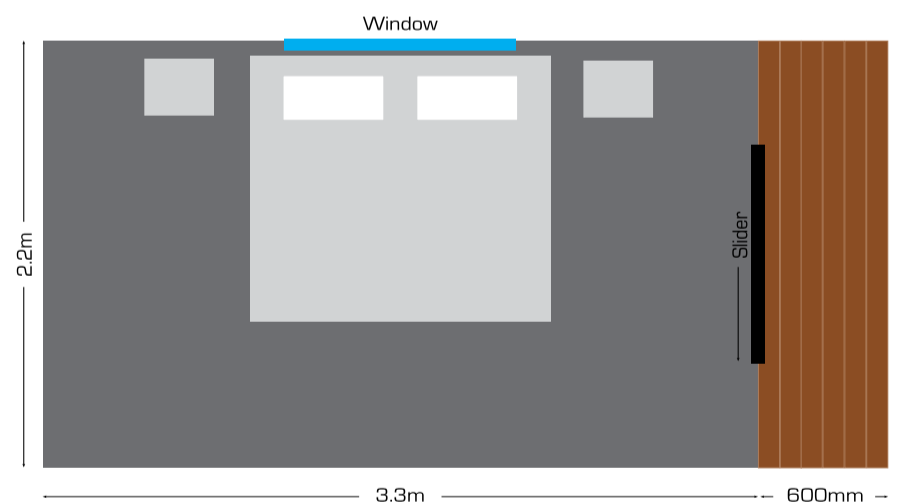
Drinks and Nibbles, Friday October 6 from 5.30pm to 7.00pm at Te Horo Hall (a Christmas-themed event is planned for Friday, 1 December 2023).

below: treats available at Paddy's Mart 2023





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MP for Ōtaki

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

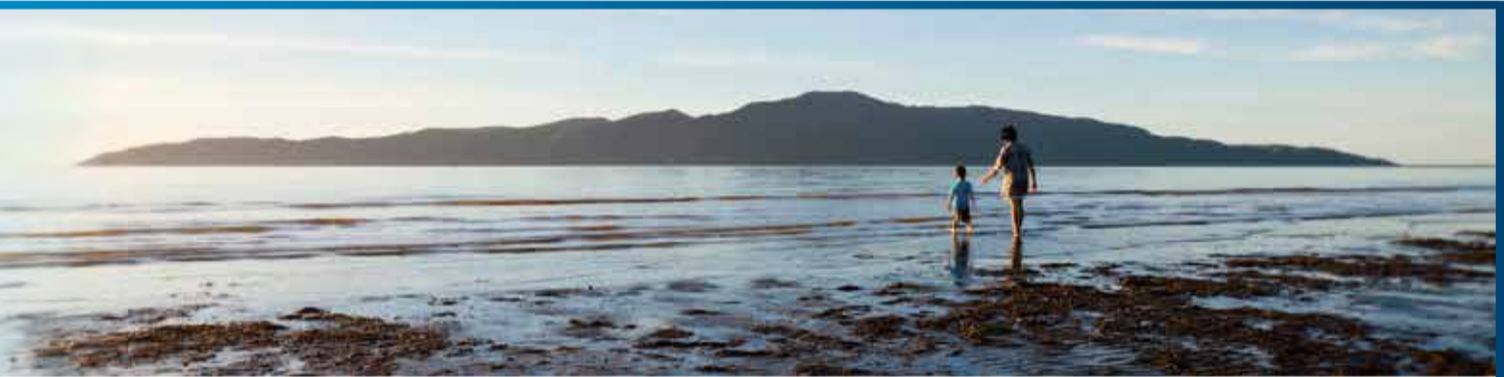
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Expressions of interest



Are you a Kāpiti local keen to inform our climate change response and improve community resilience?

Do you already work with others in our community taking positive climate action or in emergency response and recovery work?

We want to hear from you!

Kāpiti Coast District Council is setting up a climate change and resilience community think tank to support the development of our Climate Change and Resilience Strategy. We would like to know if you are interested in being involved!


Climate expert or not, we are looking for people who are interested in climate action,

community resilience, and addressing how climate change is affecting us and is likely to continue affecting us for some time. You will work with councillors and other community volunteers to help Council decide where to focus priority for climate change and building increased resilience within the district.


We will be looking to engage you on the scope, principles and priorities for climate change and resilience – and we will want your views on key topics such as how we get the most from developing this strategy in:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting the shift to low carbon future.
- Preparing for a changing climate.
- Building resilient infrastructure and connected communities, to make sure we have the right activity in the right place.

- Empowering resilience, self-sufficiency and self-reliance of businesses and our community in the face of increasing weather-related climate events.
- Establishing the frameworks for recovery from major events, so that we are prepared.

 We are looking for as wide a range of Kāpiti residents as possible – so please complete the simple Expression of Interest form on our website at kapiticoast.govt.nz/CRCThinkTank.

EOIs close 9pm, Sunday 8 October.



Kāpiti Coast
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Me Huri Whakamuri, Ka Titiro Whakamua

Taking Ōtaki's pulse

Chronic pain, and massage

BY ANN CHAPMAN

Chronic or persistent pain is pain that carries on for longer than 12 weeks despite medication or treatment. Most people get back to normal after pain following an injury or operation, but sometimes the pain carries on for longer, or comes on without any history of an injury or operation. Pain is your body's normal reaction to injury or illness. It's a warning that something's wrong and once fixed the pain goes away.

Chronic pain is different as it continues long after the cause has gone. It can take a toll on your emotional and physical well-being. It can develop into what is called Chronic Pain Syndrome when the symptoms develop from pain alone to cause depression and anxiety. That's when it can interfere with your daily life and it's made worse by being so hard to define, diagnose and treat.

It can affect any gender and any age, and no-one knows the cause. It can start with an injury or chronic condition – such as arthritis – and while it can be hard to treat it's not impossible. Counselling, physical and relaxation techniques can help.

There are differing views as to the cause. Some experts believe that the sufferers have a problem with their system or nerves and glands that the body uses to handle stress. Others believe it is a learned behaviour following an injury.

Talk to your doctor about the cause and treatment. Talk to your physiotherapist to find some exercises to help relieve. Go have a massage. If pain persists then you need to start insisting on more radical treatment and ask to see a pain specialist, or get referred to a pain clinic. Your health practitioner will tailor your treatment to get to the source of your pain.

Massage: A gentle form of healing

Your shoulders ache from too much sitting hunched in front of a computer? Or perhaps your lower back aches from all that early spring gardening? Try the gentle therapeutic art of massage. There are many different types of massage to suit your needs, or your mood and we have many practitioners here in Ōtaki offering a variety of styles.

Aromatherapy is the simplest and most relaxing, and is said to relax you, heal you emotionally, boost your mood, reduce stress and anxiety all while smelling the scent of aromatic herbs. It is the softest of massages, gentle pressure using essential oils. This is the massage you choose if you want to gently sleep while inhaling fragrance as you are massaged.

Swedish massage is pretty similar and used to heal stress and tension except no oils are used.

Instead, the therapist relies of her or his hands as they knead the muscles, or use long, flowing strokes in the direction of the heart, or circular motions with vibration and tapping. It is also a gentle therapy.

Deep-tissue massage is a more intense form of massage that is used to target specific areas of muscle tension. Deep-tissue massage is a powerful tool for relieving muscle tension, especially in areas that are

more resistant to conventional massage techniques. It's a good option if you have muscle problems, such as soreness, injury, imbalance, tightness or chronic muscular pain. Slow strokes will be used with deep finger pressure to relieve tension in particular spots through the deepest layers of your muscles and connective tissue. Depending on how firm you want your therapist to be, deep-tissue massage can hurt as it soothes out the knots in you muscles, but it's worth it.

Thai massage is good for people who want a more active form of massage to relieve pain and stress. Along with deep tissues it is a serious form of therapy to achieve more than

just relaxation. It can also improve flexibility, circulation and energy levels. A practitioner works the entire body in a series of movements which are similar to stretching using palms and fingers to apply firm pressure, twisting and stretching you into various positions.

Mirimiri is a traditional Māori massage healing technique. It includes applying pressure to trigger points and pressure points using tools such as kōhatu (stones); spine and joint alignment techniques; and the use of hands, feet, elbows and bodyweight to work the muscles and tissue. It is similar to other traditional massage techniques, while also incorporating Māori wairua.

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The Rongoā Space

BY JOANNE HAKARAIA

Rongoā of the Month

TAUPATA

Coprosma repens

Taupata is a robust little rākau that can withstand the strongest elements. In fact, it seems to thrive in extreme weather conditions. Tāwhirimātea and Tangaroa are its allies in that they support Taupata to be stronger. It enjoys absorbing the minerals in coastal areas that Tangaroa provides and gains strength and hardness from Tāwhirimātea. Much like the people who live alongside them. If you were to remove Taupata from the ruggedness of its allies, would Taupata change? If you removed a person from the ruggedness of what they have always known, would they change?

Taupata is very similar to its whanaunga Karamu (*Coprosma robusta*), except Taupata is a coastie. The top side of the leaf is shiny and waxy and is a good way to identify it. It's waxy so that the sea salt doesn't get stuck on the leaf. On the underside of the leaf there are small pits (or houses) at the junctions of the veins called domatia. These domatia are really interesting because they apparently house little insects, like mites. These mites help to remove potential fungi on the leaves that might cause harm. It is believed that the plant has evolved to be able to produce these houses (domatia) specifically for the mites to shelter in!

Taupata has been traditionally used by Māori for kidney and bladder inflammation. It also helps to support gut flora.

Taupata grows everywhere on the coast. It's probably growing in your backyard! If you know the whakapapa of the area that Taupata grows, harvest some leaves and make a tea. Make sure to say a karakia before harvesting. Taupata dries well, so it can be stored in a paper bag or your favourite container. I usually dry mine in a kete or basket away from direct sunlight.

To make a wairākau:

1. Place about 6 leaves (fresh or dried) in a teapot or coffee plunger
2. Pour 250 mls of boiled water into the pot
3. Steep leaves 5–10 mins
4. Drink.

Taupata Wairākau has a mild, pleasant taste. Remember that this wonderful sturdy rākau has many minerals and nutrients that revitalise the body.

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

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



Zero Waste Ōtaki: Wood recycling update

BY JO LYNCH



A fine Sunday usually buzzes with activity at ZWŌ Wood Waste. The site is open for longer hours, (9.00am till noon), and increasing numbers of people are taking the opportunity to drop stuff off or come in to find what they need for their latest project.

Take the last Sunday in August. Here's what just three of the 69 recyclers were building: Paul came in and bought a trailer-load of wood so he can build a gazebo in his garden. It will be made from ZWŌ recycled timber – along with some off-cuts he has stored from other projects around his home.

Phillipa from the Green Party was there hunting through the 4"x2" stack for timber they can use to put up hoardings – the other main political parties have also been in wanting timber for the same purpose.

Shikhaa and her partner from Te Horo bought a huge load so they can build a fence for their vegetable garden. They are big

users of ZWŌ's recycled timber. Previous projects have included a garden shed and converting a garage into a yoga room.

Wendy and Ian from Levin were able to snap up some of the Wānanga's ply (the last load has arrived) which they use for making a range of art works including butterflies, which along with other craft items they sell at local markets. Wendy says they are always on the lookout for other recyclable material as well. "We saw ZWŌ advertising wood, so we went to have a look to see if they had anything we might be able to reuse. There is a huge need for places like this. There is no need for lots of stuff to go to landfill. We often visit trash palace in Porirua or the tip-shop in Otaihangā. Any of these places that help to recycle stuff back into the community has to be a good thing."

Not everyone finds what they want, but that Sunday several people took the opportunity

to ask the ZWŌ volunteers to let them know when new items come in. Joan, for example, has her name down for ranch-slider doors. At the time of writing this none had come in, so she is planning to come and have a look at the good supply of opening windows and see if she can make do with those instead.

That Sunday, Jane, the site coordinator, reported that ZWŌ had 15 volunteers, including several that had not been to site for a while, and a record 69 visitors. They bought \$700.00 dollars' worth of recycled timber, while over 1350kg came onto the site. It is all recorded as 'waste' until it is sold.

ZWŌ is open to the public every Wednesday 9.30–10.30 am; on the last Sunday of the month, 9.00 – 12.00; and at other times by arrangement (ph 028 852 09936). To see what's new: www.facebook.com/groups/zerowasteotaki.nz



Energise Ōtaki: Good times for all

BY EMILY MCDOWELL

Are you reading this before or after 30 September? That's when Ōtaki Bike Space is/was giving away around 50 revamped, donated bikes, and repairing even more on site. More pedal-power for Ōtaki! Down with (car) emissions!

Fixing items instead of buying new means less energy is spent on production and goods transportation.

Mending 99 broken items at the recent Ōtaki Repair Café saved almost a tonne of climate change-causing emissions. That's the equivalent of running your television non-stop for four and a half years.

Ōtaki Carbon Forests now has 200 seedlings taking root along Ōtaki River. We've bought a further 600 kanuka. Half-hectare by half-hectare, we plan to plant 32 hectares in total of native forest to eat up Ōtaki's carbon emissions and feed our local flora and fauna.

Do you have land you want more trees on? Energise Ōtaki can help – including with applying for carbon credits.

The third-annual Whakahiko Ōtaki – Energise Ōtaki Fund opens 9 October. We've over \$15,000 to share of revenue from Aotearoa's first community-owned solar farm.

Last year's recipient projects included a pilot workshop for building solar panels; a prototype for a solar cart; research on using car batteries for power storage; and gardening related projects (the more we grow locally, the less energy we have to spend trucking in food).

Applications could be for study aid, song writing ... the brief is broad.

But of course October's most important energy event is the election. Having a government that takes action on climate change is crucial for us all.

Here's to having enough good energy for everyone on Election Day.

Power to the people!

- Ōtaki Bike Space Great Bike Giveaway and Repair Day: Saturday 30 Sept. 10am – 2pm, Ōtaki College. Koha appreciated.
- Ōtaki Carbon Forests: email Di Buchan: otaki.carbonforests@gmail.com
- voteforclimate.org.nz compares political parties' climate-change policies.



right, above: Raukawa Prime at Ōtaki Carbon Forests' first planting



right, below: Steve Lang (right) fixes Sharon, Isaac and Xavier Milne's food mixer, with volunteer Saul Ward at Ōtaki Repair Café.

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What will the future of Kāpiti look like?

Have your Say!

**Tell us what matters most and what changes you want to see in our district now, tomorrow, and beyond.
Help us make Kāpiti even better!**

It's time to start preparing our next Long-term Plan, which means we want to hear what you think about our priorities and understand your aspirations for the future.

Mayor Janet Holborow says feedback from the community will help to create a clear districtwide vision that will guide Council planning, decision-making, programmes, services, and advocacy for decades to come.

"As a district, Kāpiti is facing some big challenges and it's crucial that we talk with all corners of our community about what we need to prioritise now, versus what we need to focus on over the longer term.

"We're committed to listening and learning, and working with our iwi partners and community boards to make sure Council's activity and available funding is directed in the right areas and delivers a future Kāpiti that we all want."

Our Long-term Plan sets our direction, the activities and priorities we will deliver on, our financial and infrastructure strategies, and our budget for the next 10 years, with a detailed focus on the first three years. Some of the questions councillors have been asking include:

**What makes Kāpiti feel like home?
What changes do you want to see in Kāpiti now, and what changes do you want to see in Kāpiti for our next generation?**

Through Vision Kāpiti we're seeking your feedback on our priorities and annual actions, which feed into our Long-term Plan. This is your opportunity to give feedback on the plan now, before formal consultation begins early next year.



Tell us what your priorities and aspirations are for Kāpiti!



haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/Vision-Kapiti

Help us get our Priorities right

We want to hear what we need to focus on, change, or improve for some important topics: education, employment and income, and tourism. What do we need now, over the next couple of years, and in the future to ensure the community's needs are met in these areas?



Education

We want to ensure everyone in Kāpiti can access a range of education services that support them to pursue fulfilling employment opportunities. We also need to ensure they are the right type of education services so we can encourage young people to study here and retain a skilled and competitive workforce.

We're exploring options for an education hub to help students find pathways to employment. We also recognise the need for lifelong learning opportunities for anyone in our community who wants them, whether they will eventually generate income, or provide non-financial benefits to a person's wellbeing or local community.

Employment and Income

We want the people of Kāpiti to have access to a range of employment opportunities, including meaningful and well-paid jobs.

Kāpiti is already home to some major tech entrepreneurs, and it's well set up for remote working. We're looking to attract businesses in the manufacturing, technology, accommodation, and tourism sectors as well as creating an environment for new innovative start-ups to establish themselves and thrive.



Tourism

We know Kāpiti is a special place, and we're already doing lots to share our story with others. In particular, research tells us that visitors value time spent with family and friends, in nature, at our beaches, and dining out.

Tourism has the potential to provide a wider range of diverse jobs right here at home. We're looking to grow tourism and attract more visitors to our district in a way that benefits the local economy, the local community, and the natural environment.

So, have we got it right? Join the kōrero and have your say

- Tell us what you think at [haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/Vision-Kāpiti](https://haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/Vision-Kapiti)
- Visit our roving engagement hub (located at the Ōtaki Library until 13 October)
- Pop into a library, pool, or council service centre and fill in a feedback card
- Chat to us at community events
- Write to us at visionkapiti@kapiticoast.govt.nz

Have your say!



Girls rugby an awesome success

BY FRANK NEILL

The Rāhui Rugby Club hosted a highly successful girls rugby tournament at the Ōtaki Domain on 16 September.

The Rāhui Royāle Girls Rugby Festival attracted more than 250 players and supporters from as far away as Whanganui and Manawatu.

The festival was an “awesome day celebrating opportunities for our girls to play against girls,” says Jared (JT) Tuoro, who organised the junior girls section of the tournament. “It was really cool. It was a cool girls’ day out.” The event was so successful “we are definitely looking to do something like this again next year,” JT says.

There were two competitions for the junior girls, with three U11 teams and three U13 teams. Each section had a Mārekura team, as the junior girls teams from the Rāhui club are known. The U11 section also had a team from Wellington and a combined Manawatu and Foxton team.

The U13 section had a team from Wellington and a team from the Wairarapa.

Kahurangi Sturmey organised the U18 competition.

Four teams competed in this section, with Wellington playing Manawatū and Whanganui playing the Wellington Centurions. The Rāhui women’s senior team was also scheduled to play Levin College Old Boys women, but the Levin team defaulted.

The club says a huge thank you to all the helpers with the kai, setting up fields and general assistance. It also says a huge thank you to the sponsors. “They enabled us to run the festival,” JT says. Three of the sponsors are Ōtaki-based businesses: Duke’s Plumbing;

Kathie Irwin and Associates; and Luxury Golf Tours New Zealand.

The under-11 and under-13 Mārekura teams will be in action again 30 September at festival at FMG Waikato Stadium in Hamilton. This festival will also feature a match between the Black Ferns and Australia for the final O’Reilly Cup test match.



the under-11 Mārekura team hot on attack

Huge win for Rāhui women

BY FRANK NEILL

The Rāhui Women’s Rugby team kicked off its 2023 season with a massive 94–0 victory over Levin Athletic at Playford Park on 23 September.

Given that they play for just 30 minutes each half, this was a huge points tally for the Ōtaki team. Rāhui led Athletic 55–0 at half time.

Rāhui scored 17 tries, with Kararaina Te Puni dotting down five times.

below: Kararaina Te Puni scoring the 2023 season’s first try.

below, right: Pounamu MacKay races toward the try line



Pounamu MacKay was also in top try-scoring mode, crossing the line four times. She also kicked three conversions. Autumn Royal scored two tries.

Four teams are contesting the Horowhenua–Kāpiti Women’s Championship this year. Last year’s winners, Levin College Old Boys women, and Foxton are also in the competition.



Bowls season opens

BY FRANK NEILL

The Ōtaki Bowling Club opened its season on 22 September with the club’s patron, Fae Fagan, having the first bowl.

A series of social games of bowls then followed.

The opening day was very well attended, with more than 35 people there, including eight new members.

“This year our target is to promote youth bowling,” Bowling Club Captain Paul Selby says.

The club is looking to be involved in Bowls Kāpiti Coast’s ‘Bowls in Schools’ programme.

The club, Paul says, is looking for more members “especially the younger brigade”.

Poeple wanting moe information or wanting to join the club can contact:

Paul: 027 333 5339.



above: Ōtaki Bowling Club President Hugh Daubney, delivers a bowl during the club’s opening day

Swimming

BY FRANK NEILL

The Ōtaki Titans Swimming Club is about to create history.

For the first time in its history it is organising an inter-club swimming competition.

Called the Waitohu Meet, it will be held at the Coastlands Aquatic Centre on Saturday 28 October.

below: Titan Kokoro Frost, who will be swimming in the Ōtaki Titans Swimming Club’s first ever inter-club competition



The event is open to both club and competitive swimmers and will feature eight events – 50 metres, 100 metres, 200 metres and 400 metres freestyle, 50 metres breaststroke, 100 metres butterfly, 100 metres individual medley and 200 metres backstroke.

The doors to the Coastlands Aquatic Centre will open at 4pm for the competition and the meet will start at 5pm.

Entries are \$10 per event and close at midnight on 22 October.

Joel Winterburn wins another top award

BY FRANK NEILL

One of Rāhui Rugby’s legends, Joel Winterburn, was named the senior team’s Most Valuable Player at the Rāhui Sportsclub’s prizegiving on 2 September.

A loose forward, Joel has a century under his belt, having played his 100th game for Rāhui on 29 July.

His outstanding contribution helped Rāhui win the Ramsbotham Cup as the 2023 Horowhenua–Kāpiti Rugby champions when they defeated Shannon 23–22 following a tightly contested final.

Following the match, Joel was named Player of the Day by the Horowhenua–Kāpiti Rugby Football Union.

Joel is also the 2022 Heartland Player of the Year and Māori Player of the Year and was presented the two awards at the annual Horowhenua–Kāpiti Rugby Union awards dinner in November.

Last year was the second time Joel had received both awards, which he also won at the end of the 2020 season.

Another player who stood out in Rāhui’s victory over Shannon, Alizay Roach, was presented with two trophies at the awards evening.

He won the trophy for the Most Valuable Back as well as the trophy for the Most Points Scored during the 2023 season.

Alizay’s last minute penalty saw the Ōtaki team edge past Shannon to not only win the championship but also maintain an unbeaten record for the season.

His successful kick was clinched from a wide angle.

Rāhui’s captain, Morehu Connor-Phillips, was presented the trophy for Best Team Member.



left: Rāhui Rugby’s Most Valuable Player of 2023 scoring a try for his team during their 71–19 victory over Levin College Old Boys on 1 July

Jake Quin won the trophy for Most Valuable Forward; Sam Gibson won the trophy for Most Dedicated Player; and Brodhu Archibald was awarded the Most Improved Player.

The other awards presented at the 2023 prizegiving were:

Kikorangi Rāhui Senior B Rugby 2023

Best Team Member, TR Baker; Most Improved, P Cook; Most Points, P Tapiata; Most Valuable Back, D Wawatai; Most Valuable Forward, M Lafrentz; and Player of the Year, R Wells.

Under-21

Up and Coming U21 Player, D Hakaraia; Most Improved U21, C Vanderwiell.

Rāhui Senior Netball – Whero

Most Valuable Player, Raureti Cup, Jade Ratapu; Most Improved, KCD Trust Trophy, F Maslin; Best Defence, J Taylor-Albert; Best Attack, P Tūtemahurangi; and Best Mid Court, D Davis.

Rāhui Senior Netball – Kahurangi

Most Valuable Player, Hunia Davis Cup, HR Hawkins; Most Improved, K McArley; Best Defence, TA Tapine; Best Attack, H Lardelli; and Best Mid Court, TA Hawkins.

Rāhui Senior Netball – āā Mā

Most Valuable Player, E Taurua; Most Improved, J Paranihi-Nuku; Best Defence, D McCosh; Best Attack, M Thompson; and Best Mid Court, N Chapman.

Rāhui Senior Netball 2023

Cook Cup Overall 321 points, E Harrison-Paurini; AAS Overall Player, Jasmine Ratapu; and Gardner Homes Best Sportsperon, D Davis.

Kaumātua Olympics

BY FRANK NEILL

Ōtaki hosted the inaugural Kaumātua Olympics on 20 September and the event was a stunning success.

Organised by Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki, the Kaumātua Olympics saw 250 kaumātua and kuia descend on Ngā Purapura for the games. Including supporters, around 300 people were at the event.

During the day, teams of kaumātua from the lower North Island competed in a series of events. The games they played included connect four, noodle hockey, Nerf darts and hula-hoop toss, among a variety of other carnival games suitable for kaumātua and kuia.

The overall Kaumātua Olympics champion team was Ngā Hapu o Te Reureu from Halcombe.

The winners came from the northern-most part of Ngāti Raukawa settlements in this region.

The purpose of the day “was to bring kaumātua together so they can understand how valued they are in our communities and give them the opportunity to be together,” event organiser Jalaine Tahiwī says.

“It’s really good to feel wanted and that’s the whole essence of us being here – to be valued.”

The event was so successful that another Kaumātua Olympics is already being planned for next year.

It will be organised by Ngāti Toa Takapūwāhia and will be held in Porirua at a date yet to be set.

right: the winners of the inaugural 2023 Kaumātua Olympics, Ngā Hapu o Te Reureu from Halcombe

right: the team that put together the first-ever Kaumātua Olympics (from left) Barbara Rudd, Amelia Rika, Jalaine Tahiwī, Denise Hapeta and Ariana Rika. Barbara, Jalaine and Denise are from Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki while Amelia and Ariana are from Te Arawa Rotorua.



below: a team takes its turn at playing Nerf darts at the Kaumātua Olympics.



above: two kaumātua and kuia teams facing off in a game of noodle hockey



left: some of the crowd that came to Ngā Purapura for the 2023 Kaumātua Olympics



Gardening with

Garden tasks for October



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Flower garden

Continue to take cuttings of fuchsias, dahlias and chrysanthemums. Pinch back the growing tips of chrysanthemums to encourage flowering. Gladioli bulbs should be planted at fortnightly intervals from now until Christmas to provide a succession of summer blooms.

Arthropodiums, or renga renga, prefer to be transplanted in spring. Lift old clumps and divide up carefully. Cut all the leaves back by half, and plant them in a spot with perfect drainage – preferably in part shade.

Early spring flowering shrubs like weigela, garrya and forsythia, and climbers like jasmine and wonga-wonga vine (*Pandorea pandorana*), should be pruned and fed now. Remove all shoots that have flowered plus any weak growth.

Woodier shrubs that flower on fresh growth, such as hibiscus, lantana, tibouchina and port wine magnolia (*Michelia figo*) can be cut back vigorously to keep them in check.

Rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas respond well to an acid fertiliser applied straight after flowering.

Arcotis daisies will benefit from a regular groom with scissors. By clearing away old flowers, you will encourage a longer performance.

Sow seeds of flowering annuals directly into the ground – alyssum, Californian poppy, statice, marigolds, cosmos, nasturtium and sunflowers.

Sow in trays for transplanting later – carnations, dahlia, livingstone daisy, petunia, salvia and gerberas.

Plant out seedlings of flowering annuals.

Fruit and vegetable garden

Apple, citrus, feijoa, peach, pear, plum, persimmon and quince trees can still be planted for late summer and early autumn fruiting. Remember, good drainage is essential for the wellbeing of young fruit trees. Shelter from cold winds is also important.

Spray apple and pear trees at blossom fall to protect bees. Non-chemical lures can also be used to protect apple and

pear trees from codling moth damage. These pheromone lures trap the male moth with the scent used by the female. These traps are harmless to pets, bees and beneficial insects.

Dust cabbages and cauliflowers with derris to kill caterpillars – check constantly for slugs and snails.

Sow lettuce and radish every few weeks.

Plant out main crop potatoes.

Many cold-weather crops such as cabbage, cauliflower and edible mustard will be rushing into flower, so pick and use as soon as they are mature. Sprouting broccoli will also keep producing longer if picked regularly.

Now the danger of frost is over, seeds of tender plants can be safely sown directly into the soil. Sow direct: beans, peas, carrots, sweet-corn, beetroot, silver-beet, spinach and parsnip.

Sow direct or in trays: eggplant, cauliflower, cucumber, courgettes, pumpkin, tomatoes and peppers.

Choose a warm day and transplant vegetable seedlings into reasonably friable soil.

Lawns

Regular mowing is essential this month. As the weather gets warmer, your lawn will grow rapidly. For a perfect lawn, mow at least twice a week, and remove clippings (these attract earthworms and encourage fungal disease).

If your lawn is still very wet, identify drainage problems. Use a corer to open out soil and add sand to improve drainage.

Late October is an ideal time to give lawn an extra feed of slow-release fertiliser to strengthen it ahead of summer.

Second thoughts

Orchids like to be jammed into their pots, but you can divide old clumps now flowering is over, using orchid mix.

October is a good time to trim hedges – the first flush of spring growth will be covering the hedge, as well as paths in some gardens.

TE HORO GARDEN CENTRE



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Focus on growing boysenberries

This hybrid berry (also known as a bramble) is a cross between a raspberry and a blackberry. It's an easy deciduous crop to grow, the most heat-tolerant of all brambles (blackberry, loganberry), requiring only a little support and a sunny position to produce an abundance of fruit.

It typically grows in forest clearings and fields, particularly where fire or woodcutting has resulted in clear, open spaces. The raspberry-like flower is a major nectar source for honey bees, although cold weather at flowering results in poor pollination, and therefore small fruit.

The sweetness (just a hint of sharpness) and flavour of boysenberries is hard to beat. A delicious summer treat, they're great in a fresh seasonal salad or added to a plate of ice-cream and cream, and are perfect for making into jam or preserves. They also have an added health bonus: the fruit is high in antioxidants and rich in vitamin C.

Plant your berries approximately 1 to 1.5 metres apart, in a sunny location where they can climb up a trellis or some sort of support system. Alternatively you can train them like a pillar rose.

They prefer slightly acidic, free-draining soils, rich in organic matter. Mulch well to ensure root systems remain moist during the growing season, and water well during warm weather, and while fruit is setting and developing. An application of general fertiliser during spring is a good idea, but too much nitrogen will encourage leaf production instead of flowers.

The frost-tolerant vines need protection from strong winds – spring gales can snap new growth where it emerges from the canes. It's best to grow away from salty, marine conditions.

It's not too late to prune now, but ideally pruning should be done mid-winter. Remove old canes that have fruited, and make sure you remove all dead, damaged or weak-looking

branches. Cut canes to the base, and any real thorny ones should be cut off as low to the ground as possible. Tie up young trailing canes to your trellis system – they will fruit in the second year.

Good hygiene and not growing plants in a wet soil will keep many diseases at bay, but bird nets may be needed if birds are getting the fruit before you.

Garden centres normally have good stocks available from mid to late winter. Reliable varieties include: 'Mapua', a mostly spineless plant with large, flavoursome berries; 'Tasman', an early season variety which crops well with medium-sized fruit; 'McNichol's Choice' has good-sized berries on canes with little or no spines, and yield can be very high; and 'Boysenberry Brulee', a moderately vigorous, mostly spineless plant which produces large, firm berries from December to January.





the Ōtaki Mail

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

A sky-blue charmer

A member of the iris family, *Sisyrinchium*. ‘Devon Skies,’ is a must-have for lovers of blue flowers. It produces large, bright, sky-blue blooms through spring and summer, and the herbaceous perennial’s small, evergreen, grass-like clumps (15 x 30 cm) remain neat and good looking all year round.

This is a really tough little plant, cold-hardy and tolerant of heat and humidity. A native of South and North America, it is happy in a well-drained soil with plenty of sunshine (but don’t position in a spot where it fries in hot, dry summer conditions, particularly important if growing in a pot). ‘Devon Skies’ is not a greedy plant, but likes a little lime and enjoys a light feed every spring especially if grown in a container. It’s great in a pot on its own, or as an edging for a larger container plant.

The plant is also good for edging around flower beds, adding a pleasing touch of formality and helping with maintenance, preventing leaves and soil being spread onto paths by birds. It provides a rewarding display when mass planted, looks good growing in the foreground of bolder perennials or attractive foliage plants and looks quite quirky grown in front of or amongst taller dwarf irises. Colour-wise, it looks superb with yellow flowers such as the free-flowering dwarf day lily ‘Stella Bella,’ and classy with a range of blue flowers from simple violas, and smaller-growing English lavender (such as ‘Foveaux

Storm’ or ‘Violet Intrigue’) to the rather more sophisticated honey wort (*Cerithe major*) *Sisyrinchium* ‘Snowbells’ is a white-flowered version, the plant covering itself with attractive clean-white blooms with a golden eye; it’s also an easy plant to grow, tolerating pretty much any conditions.

A bigger (50 x 40 cm) member of the *Sisyrinchium* family is ‘Striatum,’ also known as Pale Yellow-eye Grass. Iris-like in appearance, the plant grows in tuft-like clumps, and is an elegant, evergreen perennial with grey-green foliage (there is also a variegated variety). In late spring, early summer tall, multiple spikes of small, creamy-yellow flowers with purplish brown stripes appear (each flower will open for just one day with the morning sun and then close again on dusk). Great in the herbaceous border, the blooms attract both butterflies and bees. After flowering, attractive, black seed pods are produced (you’ll need to remove spent flower stems if you don’t want the plant to naturalise).

Frost-hardy and happy in a poor but well-drained soil in either sun or partial shade, ‘Striatum’ is drought tolerant once established and is a wonderful landscaping plant, good mass-planted and, although it spreads over time, clumps are easily divided (providing you with more plants).



Easy-care Chinese lanterns

I love the delicate, papery flowers of *Abutilon*, commonly known as Chinese lanterns or Flowering Maple, and the forgiving, easy-care nature of this South American shrub. It’s a close cousin of sun-loving hibiscus (and the fact they grow with the greatest of ease from cuttings, as most of mine have).

Finding shrubs that flower in summer shade can be a challenge, but *Abutilons* are happy to oblige, providing welcome colour and shade while we relax and entertain outdoors (although they grow, and probably flower more, in the sun).

There are more than 100 species of *Abutilon* in the wild in various parts of the world, but the ones that shine in our gardens are mostly complex hybrids, mainly known as *Abutilon* x *hybridum*, which come in many lantern-like flower colours, from white through pink to dark red, and include the rich golden yellow, ‘Golden Fleece’, and brilliant orange, ‘Kentish Belle’.

Although they bloom for much of the year north of Auckland, further south flowering becomes spasmodic (our winter conditions restrict or stop growth). Their flowers are favourites of our native birds.

Easily maintained, the vigorous shrubs do tend to become leggy and woody if not pruned regularly. You can cut back hard; it won’t be long before they are bushy and flowering again. Moist, fertile soil is preferred with appropriate feeding from time to time.

We do grow a few *Abutilon* species in New Zealand, including one that British gardener, Vita Sackville-West grew in her famous Sissinghurst garden. She extolled the desirability of *Abutilon megapotamicum* or Brazilian Bellflower in one of her books, likening the red and yellow flowers to “a ballet dancer, something out of Prince Igor [wearing] a tight-fitting red bodice, with a yellow petticoat springing out below it in flares.” It is certainly one of my favourites also, especially grown against a wall to cater for its rangy sprawling habit, though it does need protection from frost in colder regions.

This species, which originates in southern Brazil and Uruguay, can be trained upwards against a fence, or grown as a groundcover. In cooler climates it thrives in a container.

Another famous 20th-century gardener, Gertrude Jekyll, found much to admire in a second species, the deciduous *Abutilon vitifolium*, a native of cool areas of Chile that is occasionally seen in New Zealand gardens. Eventually becoming a very large shrub or small tree, she described it as “a shrub for wall use that is much neglected though of the highest beauty. The flowers, each two and a half inches across, are borne in large, loose clusters, their tender, lavender colour harmonising perfectly with the greyish, downy foliage.” Named cultivars include the light purple ‘Veronica Tennant’ and ‘Album’ with white flowers.



Ōtaki – Education Town

Very successful Discover China Day

BY FRANK NEILL

Around 120 Ōtaki College students took part in the school's Discover China Day on 21 September.

Discover China Day was held during Chinese Language Week, an annual event designed to increase Chinese language learning and promote Chinese culture in New Zealand.

Chinese Language week ran from 17 to 23 September.

Ōtaki College's Discover China Day "was a very successful day," the leader of the school's Mandarin programme, Destine Haeata Kuku, told the Ōtaki Mail.

Students in the college's year 7 and 8 classes took part in five Chinese cultural events during the day.

Two of the events were dances, where the students had the opportunity to try their hand at the fan dance, and to dress in Chinese lion costumes for the lion dance.

Ya Zhang visited the school to introduce the students to the fan dance, while Winsome Lim led the lion dance programme.

Fenxiao Meng not only gave a talk on martial arts, but also led the students in some martial arts action.

Zoe Li played the erhu – a traditional Chinese string instrument sometimes known as the "chinese violin", which dates back to the Tang dynasty more than 1,000 years ago.

As well as learning about the erhu, the students had the opportunity to play this instrument.

Alice Xin Huang introduced the students to Chinese calligraphy and painting.

The college's Discover China Day was significantly

enhanced with the involvement of the Confucius Institute – an organisation dedicated to promoting Chinese language teaching and to fostering international cultural and intellectual exchange.

It is particularly appropriate that Chinese Language Week is celebrated in Ōtaki, given the long association of Chinese people with the town.

That goes back to before the turn of the 20th Century, when a number of Cantonese speaking Chinese arrived in Ōtaki, primarily from the Otago goldfields and from Wellington.

They leased land, as they were not permitted to own it, and they began market gardening for the Wellington markets.

By 1910, there were numerous market gardens operated by Chinese.

By 1988 Chinese families resident in this area for at least two generations include some very well-known names: the Moys, Hings, Chongs, Chungs, Wings, Youngs, Gows, Yungs, Wongs, Sues and Yees.

Some of the town's street names reflect this Chinese heritage.

This includes Jean Hing Place. When Jean Hing and her older son Brian unveiled the street sign on 22 August 2007, they were unveiling the first bilingual street sign in New Zealand.

Jean Hing was the daughter of Jack and Sum Lai Hing, who came to New Zealand where they had nine children, who grew up bilingual and helped their parents in the family market garden and greengrocery.

right, top: Ōtaki College students performing the Lion Dance during the school's Discover China Day

right, middle: Mihi Tanga (left) and Kiara Bevan working on their painting and calligraphy

right, bottom: Ōtaki College students performing a Fan Dance



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

You can organise a kōrero with the Tumuaki Urutakai Cooper by contacting the Kura Manager Charlie McNaught on 063648017 or admin@spc.school.nz



Ōtaki College News

October 2023

www.otakicollege.school.nz

College Leadership

With the departure of Marion Lumley, we have reconfigured the College Senior Leadership Team and I am pleased to welcome Dawn Hirschberg and Jess Torley into the Leadership Team. Both Dawn and Jess are highly respected teacher practitioners and bring a number of skill sets to the Leadership Team. Dawn, as Pou Tohu Haikura, will now have a key role working with NZQA, focussing on the

changes that will be taking place over the next couple of years in NCEA. Jess, as Pou Te Ara Poutama, is taking a leading role in supporting the development of New Pedagogies for Deep Learning in the College and her skills in change management, along with best teaching practice, will be invaluable in steering this major focus in the College.

Andy Fraser, Principal



Back row: Hamish Wood, Tumuaki Tuarua | Deputy Principal; Andy Fraser, Tumuaki | Principal; Ian McMillan, Kaiwhakahaere Matua | Business Manager
Front row: Jess Torley, Pou Te Ara Poutama | NPD Development Leader; Dawn Hirschberg, Pou Taituarā Tohu Haikura | Principal's NCEA Nominee; Jarrad Porima, Tumuaki Āwhina | Assistant Principal & Head of Pastoral Team

Basketball Success

What a season we have had with these 12 boys. My thought at the beginning of this season was 'Atu has got her work cut out for her this season' but I also knew that if anyone can do it then Atu can.

The commitment shown by Coach Atu and her team has been pivotal in the success of this Junior Tuakana Tama team. Our team captain was Tumoana Sa'ena who was given this role because of his skill level and his understanding of the game. The rest of our team consisted of Bede Roberts, Taipari Tukerangi, Kaziah Roach-Box, Mana Toimata, Manu Rore McKechnie, Te Putu Ratu, Ranginui Telford, Jordan Tahiwī, Manase-Jamez Bailey, Eddy Vidulich and

last but not least Kapiti Williams who is the youngest Player and only a Year 8 at OC.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us this season especially the parents and Lydia who have been to nearly every game and have just made this basketball season so much easier for Atu and myself.

Huge acknowledgements to Coach Atu for taking time out for these boys even though she doesn't have any tamariki. You are an inspiration and we look forward to what the future holds for these future ballers.

'He waka eke noa.'

Katera Rikihana-Tukerangi, Team Manager



Bandquest

On 30 August the Manawatū regional Bandquest competition was held in Palmerston North. Bandquest is a competition for bands made up of students up to Year 8. Ōtaki College was represented by ŌC Oceans, made up of Ruby Rasmussen, Carys Watkins, Awhina Nirai, Jovan-Cruz Iraia, Kaia Richter, Ben Cranson, and Mihirangi Tanga. All students had a

wonderful time and really connected with a number of other musicians in the area. To top it off Mihirangi Tanga was awarded the Best Keyboardist, which is a great achievement. Many thanks go to band tutors Anje Glindemann and Steve Poulton. ŌC Oceans will next go to the Battle of the Bands in Wellington.

Joanna Devane, Curriculum Leader, Performing Arts



Back row - Ruby Rasmussen, Carys Watkins, Awhina Nirai, Jovan-Cruz Iraia
Front row - Kaia Richter, Ben Cranson, Mihirangi Tanga

Student Artwork on Display

A replacement backboard for above the manakitanga mural was erected by Caretaker, Colin Rice, after Tiaki Mae Climie, Zac Burgoyne and Jadon Fox applied their artistic talents to beautify the area. It looks fantastic and the boys are super excited to see their artwork on display. This project became part of their student enterprise program after Colin asked the boys to do something with the existing rough back board. It was a very satisfying and mana enhancing opportunity for the boys, and, as the photo shows, they did a great job.



ePro8

Over the last few weeks, three Year 9 and 10 teams have been training hard for the Wellington Region ePro8 2023 championships. ePro8 is a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths Challenge, where students are given 2.5 hours to complete as many challenges as they can, ranging in complexity and using electronics to control their creations.

All of this hard work paid off in Week 9, when two of our teams progressed through to the regional finals after coming first and third in their heat. The third team was not far off, coming a credible fifth place in the heat, and as a new Year 9/10 team, this places them well for the competition in 2024. It was then a nail biting thriller, at the regional finals when our College teams took on teams from some of the biggest schools in the Wellington Region and came out triumphant. Competing against ten other teams after four heats in which 48 teams competed for the twelve final spots, it was exciting to see our two teams again

come out in first and third place, with the third placed team just missing out on second place. For the Leaping Leprechauns (Giorgio Bevan, Keshar-Rae Falamoe, Bill Brookman and Lachlan Byrne - Year 10), taking out first place was a dream come true after they were just beaten in the finals last year as a Year 9 team. Third placed XP (Parearohi Edginton, Finn Butler, Saul Ward and Trey Pearson) were also thrilled with their third place spot and are also looking forward to 2024 when they can again compete. We were also excited to hear that the ePro8 organisers have secured funding for a senior competition from 2024, meaning the Leaping Leprechauns can again compete for the winner's trophy.

A huge thanks to all of the parents for their support at the evening events and to the students involved for representing the College with pride.

Megan Nelson-Latu and Coline Diver, ePro8 Co-ordinators



above from right: Keshar-Rae Falamoe, Mrs Megan Nelson-Latu, Lachlan Byrne, Whaea Coline, Bill Brookman, Giorgio Bevan

Invitation to Prizegivings

Whānau and Community are warmly invited to our Prizegivings, where we celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students:

Sports Prizegiving – Thursday 26 October

Senior Prizegiving – Thursday 2 November

Year 9&10 Prizegiving – Tuesday 12 December at 10.00am

Year 7&8 Prizegiving – Tuesday 12 December at 1.00pm

Mayor Holborow's report

BY JANET HOLBOROW – KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT MAYOR

It's wonderful to see the old Ōtaki children's health camp coming to life again, with Kiwi Can Do running its first construction industry course. Starting with 12 participants, the organisation has a goal to grow the initiative over time.

We need this kind of initiative in Ōtaki. With projected growth set to happen in the coming years, we need to make sure we have the capacity to build the houses that will be needed over the coming years, and that includes people with skills to make it happen.

Thank you also to Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki for their commitment to this important work, as we want to use our local skills and people to support growth in the district. This course will change the lives of the people who are part of the programme, but also allow houses and infrastructure to be built for current and future residents as Ōtaki grows.

Also this month was the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade Honours Night. Congratulations to Brent Bythell who received a long-service award. As well as serving over 50 years as a volunteer firefighter, he recently was recognised for 60 years' service to the Scouts. Simon

Black, also deputy chair of the Ōtaki Community Board, received a long-service award, too.

There was a significant turnout from Council on the night: KCDC Chief Executive Darren Edwards, Ward Councillor Shelly Warwick and Ōtaki Community Board Chair Cam Butler.

On another note, it was great to visit the National Science Roadshow at Ōtaki College, one of only two schools in the district to take the opportunity to host the event. The hands-on interactive displays were skilfully hosted by selected students, and the learning opportunity was embraced by all of those there.

Lastly, I recently had the opportunity of speaking at a Wellington Water Forum, where the water shortages in the region were discussed. Over a decade ago, water meters were introduced in Kāpiti and the rest of the region is now considering following suit.

Water meters have resulted in massive water savings, and I'd like to thank the then-mayor Jenny Rowan and the council of the time, including the current Regional Councillor Penny Gaylor, for their strength and foresight in addressing Kāpiti's water supply issues.



above from left: Ōtaki Community Board Deputy Chair Simon Black, Ōtaki Community Board Chair Cam Butler, Kāpiti Coast Mayor Janet Holborow, KCDC Chief Executive Darren Edwards and his wife Belinda Edwards

Out and about with Shell

BY SHELLY WARWICK – ŌTAKI WARD COUNCILLOR

There has been a lot of talk over many years about public transport and the lack of it north to Levin, where many of the services for Ōtaki are located. We have health and justice services to the north, as well as Kaianga Ora, MSD, Police and employment opportunities. If our elderly are in care, they are normally residing to the north of Ōtaki, which makes it impossible to connect if you have no private means of transport. KCDC staff have recently submitted to the transport plan for Horizons Regional Council, which manages services across the Horowhenua.

You may ask, Why now? It is because until recently there has been legislation restricting this cross-regional planning of transport, which has really disadvantaged many in our town. Also, our Wellington Regional Leadership Committee has

recently included Horowhenua in its regional strategy for growth, which will add weight to the need for public transport to the north. It will not happen quickly, but the wheels are in motion. Thank you to KCDC staff for their work on this submission on behalf of Ōtaki.

I also had the pleasure of attending yet another Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade Honours Night. Our local firefighters are the most selfless volunteers in our community. They are called out at all hours of the night and day, having to leave family and work to attend events from simple falls to car crashes, as well as fires, often for many hours and without any pay.

Our own Community Board member, Simon Black, was among those to receive an award for 14 years' service. How proud we are! And a very special 52 years' long-

service award was given to Brent Bythell. Well done to all those who received awards, but equally, thank you to all in the brigade who provide an extraordinary service to our town.

We also had Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori, Māori Language Week from 11 to 18 September. This is something very special, particularly for our town with the reo that is spoken in our kura and wider community on a day-to-day basis. Ka pai to all who tried a few new words; it is a beautiful language and deserves celebration.

Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui, ki te ako i te reo.

Shelly Warwick

right: Ward Councillor Shelly Warwick and Ian King



Ōtaki Community Board

BY JACKIE ELLIOT

Every year Kāpiti's five Community Boards are given a budget for Community Grants. We welcome applications from groups, clubs and individuals. Last month Ōtaki Community Board raised the amount that can be applied for from \$500 to \$750 at a time.

If you would like to apply, you can find the grant application form on the KCDC website. Once the staff receive it, and all is in order, they will invite you to come along to our meeting to tell us all about your application, your dream, what you hope to do and how.

The sheer variety of applications we receive just reflects the great active, creative, talented and giving community we live in. We have many rangatahi applying to help them get to the next level in sport; coaching, to head off to a regional or national tournament. Recently we gave a grant to the Ōtaki Under-13 girls basketball team to help them get to the next tournament. Good luck girls!

We also had a visit from Tama Porter, recipient of a grant earlier in the year to attend the Globe Shakespeare Theatre company in London. He came back to tell us how his trip went. We had already

noticed the huge fundraising effort put in by Tama in the community and it was great to hear all about this once-in-a-lifetime experience to further his dramas studies, make new friends and experience performing on one of the most famous theatre stages in the world – an amazing achievement for a talented young person.

Another grant we've approved was for the Amicus Club of Ōtaki. It's a social club who focus on providing for the 60 or so mostly elderly members to meet each week. They meet over morning tea, or have day trips for those who are keen, which give members the opportunity to visit attractions as far away as Palmerston North, the Wairapara and Wellington. It's great to be able to support this group who provide important opportunities for our elderly to socialise. The grant will subsidise the bus travel, and their next trip away is to the Botanic Gardens in Wellington for the Tulip Festival. By the way, new members are absolutely welcome to join.

Pip Devonshire came from Te Korowai Manaaki Charitable Trust, to apply for a grant for 60 pieces of Oamaru stone for visiting rangatahi to have a go at carving at the 7th Whakairo Arts Symposium at the

Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club from 4 to 12 November. We look forward to seeing some of the finished pieces.

And one more grant we gave out was another community one: to assist the Ōtaki Market, who are having their special Christmas Market in December. Word is, there will be a special guest coming to meet all the children from Ōtaki. I can't say exactly who it is, but what I can say is bring your Christmas wish list to the big North Pole display area and a photographer will be there to take (free) photos for you to take home.

Feel free to apply for a grant for your project or group. We love supporting and extending the manaakitanga in our community.

REMEMBER to put it on your calendar: Ōtaki Beach TSUNAMI EVACUATION PRACTICE. In conjunction with WREMO, we are holding an evacuation event from 10am till 2pm, Saturday 28 October.

Starting from the beach end of Tasman Road, or your own home, at 10am, begin making your way, away from the beach, to safety.

Please talk to your vulnerable neighbours and help them plan their evacuation.

Prepare your own household emergency grab-bags now, and plan to be ready to evacuate out of the Tsunami Zone. We will have guides on the streets to guide you into the Safe Zone.

We will be up near the Memorial Hall (next to the library) with a free barbeque and giveaways for all those who arrive safely. See you there!

Cam, Shelly, Jackie, Chris and Simon – your Ōtaki Community Board.



Local residents want to work with Council, ŌCB meeting told

BY FRANK NEILL

Residents of Moy Place and Sue Avenue want to work with Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC) to ensure that access to a major new subdivision is via the old State Highway, Moy Place resident Lyall Payne told the 19 September meeting of the Ōtaki Community Board.

“Our aim is to work with the council on this,” Lyall said during the ‘public speaking time’ part of the meeting.

The developer of the proposed subdivision had applied to the Environmental Protection Agency for approval of its subdivision plans, which include access via Moy Place.

That access would have a “quite significant effect” on Moy Place and Sue Avenue, Lyall said, referring to the fact that it would lead to cars from 170-plus dwellings effectively moving through what is currently a low-traffic and peaceful area.

Sue Avenue and Moy Place residents “met with the Mayor [Janet Holborow] last Wednesday and she was very supportive and very helpful.

“We are now trying to get a meeting between Waka Kotahi, KCDC and local residents,” Lyall said.

“We are not trying to fight this development, but we think it makes common sense for the

access to come off the [old] main highway.” Following the meeting, Lyall told the *Ōtaki Mail* that residents of Moy Place and Sue Avenue had commissioned a traffic assessment report.

The report was made by Harriet Fraser, a chartered professional engineer specialising in traffic engineering and transportation planning.

This report says that access to the proposed subdivision should be onto the old State Highway and not via Moy Place and Sue Avenue.

“No one has come up with any sound logic as to why the access is not via [the old] State Highway,” Lyall said.

“For us, this isn’t a trivial matter,” another Moy Place resident, Phil McIntyre, told the meeting.

“We are talking about serious traffic movement.”

KCDC was currently working with an independent consultant to review the traffic impact of the proposed subdivision, council’s Group Manager Strategy and Growth Kris Pervan told the meeting.

Ms Pervan also said that land between the end of Moy Place and the subdivision was currently zoned as reserve land.

Currently KCDC was “progressing nothing with rezoning of this piece of land, which would have to happen for there to be access through Moy Place,” she said.

Ms Pervin also said that KCDC intends to liaise with Moy Place and Sue Avenue residents.

“We want to engage.

“We want to work with the community,” she said.

The bush reserve in Raukawa Street, near the Ōtaki Medical Centre “is sadly neglected and needs attention,” Maud Logman told the Ōtaki Community Board, also during the ‘public speaking time’ part of the meeting.

People had hacked into the bush.

She had recently removed 15 bundles of hacking from the bush area, she said.

Ōtaki Community Board Chair Cam Butler, said he would like to meet with Maud at the reserve, and organised to ring her.

The Community Board also decided to provide funding to four organisations at the 19 September meeting.

It approved a community grant of \$750 to the Amicus Club of Ōtaki to assist with the

cost of subsidising bus trips for their club members.

It approved a community grant of \$500 to the Ōtaki Market to assist with the cost of running and purchasing props for a Free Santa Photo Opportunity at the upcoming Ōtaki Christmas Market.

It approved a community grant of \$593.50 to Te Korowai Manaaki Charitable Trust to assist with the cost of purchasing Oamaru stone for its tamariki/rangitahi programme.

It approved a sporting activity grant of \$500 to the Kāpiti Basketball Association to assist with the cost of the Kāpiti Girls Under-13 representative team attending the Basketball New Zealand AON regional tournament in October. All of the girls in the team, bar one, live in Ōtaki.



Keep Ōtaki Beautiful – Job done

BY LLOYD CHAPMAN

Established in the early nineties, under the chairmanship of councillor Barry Mansell, the group’s early activities were focused on the national drive for town beautification. Keep Ōtaki Beautiful (KŌB) comprised a dozen members, mostly retirees.

The group sponsored an annual Best Garden competition, with separate awards for the Best Town and Best Beach Gardens. The *Ōtaki Mail* reported the Best Garden awards in 2001. For gardens viewed from the street awards went to: First, Ngaio Street; second, Toi Street; and third, Rangiuru Road.

In 2001, under chairman David Williams, KŌB lobbied KCDC for an unloved 4Ha paddock next to the motel at the northern end of the main highway – adjacent to the railway line and SH1 – to be purchased to become a park. With consultation from iwi, it was named Pareomatangi.

Under the chairmanship of retired Dr Barrie Bayston, the Mangapouri Stream that flowed through the paddock was the target of extensive planting.

Over 5,000 native trees and grasses were planted over three years. KŌB won a prestigious award for this work, with the members receiving a prize of \$5,000 at parliament in 2010.

In 2021, NZTA confirmed that Pareomatangi would be required for the new expressway. This meant the end of KŌB’s weekly planting and weeding sessions.

Now, in 2023, the expressway is complete, Pareomatangi has had a sensitive makeover (that pleases the KŌB group) with the Shared Pathway emerging through the reserve onto the old SH1. A new concrete bridge crosses the Mangapouri stream, and maintenance of the reserve reverts back to KCDC.

Many of KŌB’s original members have gone to greener pastures, including past chairmen David Williams and Barrie Bayston, and long-standing members Mae Carson and Ian Ballantyne. Those remaining are in their seventies and eighties. They decided that their major work was complete, and KŌB has disbanded. Their remaining funds of \$2,200 were donated to Friends of the Ōtaki River, a group with similar objectives. Retiring KŌB chairman Lloyd Chapman said special thanks were due to Margaret Bayston, Vanessa Matthews, Diana Standen, Roydon Harrington and Selwyn Boorman, who kept the KŌB vision alive.



above: Dr Bayston (in waders) planting *Carex secta* on the banks of the Mangapouri Stream



KOB members break from planting, 2003



Pareomatangi in 2023

Arts, Books Corner

Demonising a good doctor: The medical scandal that wasn't by Helen Overton

REVIEWED BY ANN CHAPMAN

I was a staff member at the NZ Nurses' Association (later Organisation) when *Metro* published the astounding story of 'An Unfortunate Experiment at National Women's' and the following Cartwright Inquiry. So, I was keen to read a new book published locally, which has a completely different slant on the conclusions of that inquiry.

The author, Dr Helen Overton from Waikanae, takes us through in some detail what she believes are omissions, errors and inconsistencies in what was the saga of the experiment and its subsequent inquiry. Overton believes that the judicial inquiry had a separate agenda that made the truth inconvenient. She notes some 'failures' by the inquiry, their inadequate look at what she calls the 'context of screening', and that they 'ignored the wider picture of changing management decisions'.

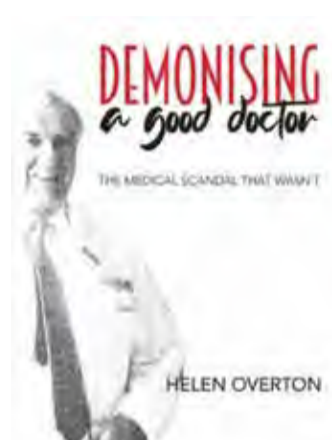
Overton is herself a retired doctor who specialised in obstetrics and gynaecology (O&G), as was her father who worked at National Women's Hospital at the same time as Professor Green, the good doctor in the title of the book. His work in minimising radical treatment, favoured by surgeons in those times, was seen by the inquiry as an experiment that harmed women and lost some of them their lives. These indeed were the findings of Judge Cartwright.

Overton says there was a lack of balance: a failure to understand medical terminology, or the evolution of

orthodox treatments. Overton hopes her book will highlight the consequences of Green's work, which have been unrecognised, misrepresented or ignored.

She believes that Cartwright, by choosing a particular witness to listen to, 'unwittingly altered the whole balance of the discussion and played right into the hands of politicians and feminist groups in their grab for power.'

Her conclusion is that the two doctors involved suffered an egregious injustice.



Caveat – Although Ann Chapman worked for the Nurse's Organisation at the time of the Unfortunate Experiment and the Cartwright Inquiry she took no part in writing the substantial submission to the inquiry by that organisation.

The book is available from Books & Co, Ōtaki

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.

Whakaaro Whakairo
Arts Symposium
Ōtaki Race Course 4 - 12 Nov

ŌTAKI
Young People's Market
+ regular market

Rātapu Sunday
8
October
10am - 2pm
main highway, Otaki

Face Painting
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ROCK PAINTING
Come along and enjoy a free crafting table run by our pals Little Monkey's At Home

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Key Submission Dates

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Submissions close: **OCTOBER 31 2023**

Late Submissions (\$25NZD fee) close: **NOVEMBER 30 2023**

Notification Date: All filmmakers will be notified by **JANUARY 30 2024**

Ngā arotakenga mai i Te Whare Whakamatau o Ōtaki



Ouroboros by Amaya Colombick

Local author

This exceptional short story, written by a year 12 student at Kāpiti College, won this year's Mansfield Short Story Award. It details an encounter between two men at a party, and is wonderfully ambiguous as to their relationship and history.

The judge of the competition said, "The control of the story's pace and tension is startling – of a standard rare in short fiction written by much older writers, let alone teenaged ones."

You can read the story at www.katherinemansfield.com under Creative Corner.

Ink/Waituhi by



For the 11th Annual Kāpiti Coast District Libraries "If You're a Poet, We Want To Know It!" competition, poets were invited to freely interpret the theme of "Ink/Waituhi".

Over 160 poems were submitted across the three age groups: Children – age 6-12, Teens – age 13-18, and Adults – age 19 and older. There were a massive 100+ submissions in the children's category!

Read them all in this book!

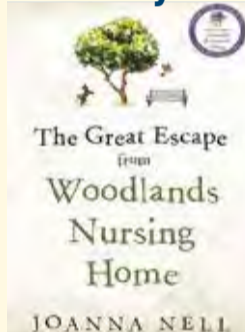
Goldie by Roger Blakeley



Although this isn't a new book for the Library, it is one of many in our collection of art books that is well worth a look - especially since it is on one of my favourite artists!

One of New Zealand's best-known artists, this book describes Charles F. Goldie's artistic career, and life, in detail. A lot of his famously recognisable works are also featured. I've always admired his skill with the beautiful realism of his subject's skin and hair, along with things like the woolly softness of his blanket detail...

The Great Escape From Woodlands Nursing Home by Joanna Nell



If you enjoyed The Single Ladies of Jacaranda Retirement Village then you will enjoy this novel written by the same author.

It is a moving and hilarious book that follows the escapades of a group of seniors who form unexpected friendships, and also deals with very real issues surrounding ageing and independence. The book details several main 'inmates,' one of which is Hattie Bloom who prefers the company of birds to people and after a fall she ends up in a nursing home...Read about their hilarious stories of growing old gracefully – and disgracefully!

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ŌTAKI IN THE NEWS ~ 1901

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

May 21

Otaki is filled with visitors today to celebrate the opening of the new bridge over the river. The necessity for a bridge has been urged by settlers in the district for many years, and great satisfaction is felt at its completion. Until now the only means of crossing the river was by fording, and as the stream is at times very dangerous, and several fatal accidents have occurred, it is evident that the bridge supplies a long-felt want.

The Premier and party arrived by the mid-day train, and after proceeding to the Jubilee Hotel for refreshments a procession was formed and marched to the bridge, which was formally declared open by Mr Seddon. The procession then reformed and marched back to the hotel, where a banquet was held in celebration of the event.

The bridge, which was designed and erected under the supervision of Mr J. E. Fulton, C.E., is an exceptionally well-built structure, 890 ft long and 14 ft wide, having eleven spans of 70 ft each and six spans of 20 ft each. It is of Australian iron bark, strengthened with iron work, the flanking being of totara. The iron work was supplied by Messrs John Anderson and Co, of Christchurch. The contractor was Mr C. F. Pulley, of Australia, and the contract price was a little under £5000.

May 22

The key used by the Premier at the opening of the Otaki Bridge is of solid silver, with an elaborately cut and engraved bow, the whole being enclosed in a blue velvet-lined case. At the top of the bow on one side is the Premier's crest, his monogram, and the

following inscription appears on the other: - Presented to the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, P. C., L.L.D., Premier of New Zealand, at the opening of the Otaki Bridge, May 21st, 1901. John Davies, Community Chairman." On the lock the following words are inscribed: - Unlocked by the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, P. C., L.L.D., at the opening of the Otaki Bridge, May 21st, 1901. John Davies, County Chairman,"

May 28

The Otaki farmers have decided to form a branch of the N.Z. Farmers' Union in their town.

June 1

The Natives of Otaki will be well represented, at the Maori reception to the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall at Rotorua next month. The local Maori Brass Band (of 18 performers), 40 Poi dancers, and a number of other Maoris leave Otaki tomorrow for Rotorua.

July 16

The weather was splendid for football on Saturday. In the championship matches Otaki defeated Manakau by 10 points to nil, and Wanderers (Weraroa) beat Levin by 9 to nil.

At the Rugby Union meeting the match between Otaki and Levin was ordered to be re-played owing to the Otaki Club not complying with the union's by-laws.

July 31

A piece of ambergris, weighing about 51/2 lbs, was picked up on the Otaki Beach the other day by Mr Heperi Paneta, of Kaikoura. He has arranged with the Loan and Mercantile Company to have it sent to England. It is said Mr Paneta refused an offer of £400 for his ambergris, preferring to try the Home market, and has been advanced £100 by the shipping agents.

August 7

The cold wet weather, of the last month or so has caused the cows to fall off considerably, in consequence butter is very scarce in Otaki; in fact it has been almost impossible at times to purchase butter in the township.

August 8

Preparations are now being made by Mr F. Stuckey, of Levin, to open a new saw mill up the Rahui Road, Otaki. Mr J.J. Booth

will also start a new mill in the Waitohu Valley, Otaki, in the course of a few weeks.

August 13

The final match for the championship of the Horowhenua Union was played at Manakau on Saturday, and resulted in a win for the Raukawa (Otaki) team by 18 points to 9. The game was fast and interesting. The representative team will leave for Pahiatua on Wednesday next to play the Bush Union.

August 23

Two old pioneers have passed away during the past few days, viz., Mrs Mary Small (mother of Mr Alexander Small) and Mr James Silberry. Mrs Small had been a resident of Otaki for nearly forty years, and was eighty-two years of age. Mr Silberry was eighty-three years of age. He arrived in New Zealand in 1840. and since then has lived chiefly in Otaki.

August 31

The Otaki Mail is pleased to hear that Sister Margaret, of the Otaki Convent, who has been under the treatment of Dr Martin, of Wellington, has recovered her voice, which has been lost to her for years.

September 22

The following, though neither original nor new, is worth reproducing:

Ohau shall I cross this swift river Ohau,
Waikanae not swim to the shore?

Otaki a boat and rapidly row,

In the Manawatu did before,

Oroua way gently, for you should beware,
Of the Horowhenua afloat.

September 25

The County Council's new road machine has been at work on the road between Otaki and the railway station, and from thence along towards the Otaki bridge. The machine appeared to do its work thoroughly, and get through a great amount in a short time. It is drawn by four draught horses, and it takes three men to look after the machine and horses. We are reliably informed that in the space of about four hours it did as much work as six men would have done in as many weeks.

October 7

Maoris have died, on more than one

occasion from Katipo bites. A notable instance is said to have occurred many years ago at Otaki, where a Maori girl, one of a party camping on the sandhills, while travelling down the coast, was bitten by a Katipo and died in two days.

November 1

One or two Otaki settlers recently ascertained that a number of crows frequented the river, and as these birds prey on the trout - a reward of Is 6d per pair being offered for their destruction by the Acclimatisation Society - they set out in quest of them, and succeeded in shooting no less than 16 pairs of crows, the heads and feet of which were sent to Wellington.

November 1

The Otaki Mounted Rifles must be possessed of voracious appetites, judging by the amount of food consumed by them during the recent week's encampment. We are reliably informed that during the week no less than about 1800 lbs of meat was used; which works out to some 21/4 lbs of meat per man each meal - without mentioning a trifling item of about 130 lbs of bacon and ham. When we point out that there was an average of 50 men in camp, it will be seen that the volunteers did not starve, and it was no wonder that the men expressed themselves sorry when the camp was broken up.

November 16

A little girl of seven summers, named K. Quill, a pupil at St. Joseph's Convent, Otaki, passed the preparatory music examination of Trinity College, London. It is thought that this must establish a record for precocity in music.

November 18

A Maori lad named Pitihera Hema died last week at Otaki from a surfeit of the fruit of the kiekie. The young fellow was a son of the chief Hema te Ao, and a brother of the young chief who was recently married to the Waikato chieftainess.

The matron of the Otaki Hospital (Miss Rochfort), who has been in charge since the opening of that institution, has resigned her position to start a private nursing home at Nelson.

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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

Soaring temperatures in host country France have seen the introduction of regular clock-stopping, water breaks in matches. Forward packs, huge men weighing hundreds of kgs, sweat pouring off them like a burst Wellington water main – causing all sorts of downstream problems such as slippery balls – have created the need for emergency hydration squads to run on with water bottles and hand towels. Sweat, dew, humidity and grease are all blamed for the slippery balls, which players say are difficult to hold on to when running with balls in-hand (a technical term).

Shorts, of course, are generally not worn by election candidates; although the day when they become the fashion on the campaign trail cannot be far off, if the move to lower the voting age gathers further momentum.

The major difference between the two events is, of course, the fact that the rugby tournament is intensely exciting and the election campaign is incredibly boring. At the same time, they are similar in both having around 20 entrants of which only four have a real chance of making the finals – Ireland, New Zealand, France and South Africa; Labour, National, ACT and the Greens. In the rugby tournament, the other teams are either 'second tier' or 'minnows', while in the political sphere they are known as 'minor parties' and Winston Peters. Although they all have policies which they plan to implement if elected, their chances of actually winning enough seats to warrant inclusion in a coalition government are roughly the same as the odds of Portugal beating Ireland to secure a spot in the quarter-finals.

Nevertheless, leaders of minor parties are treated as if they could be the next prime

minister. The leader of the Fancy Dress Party, frinstance, was interviewed at length by Jack Tame on TVNZ's Q+A programme about his tax policy which has absolutely zero chance of ever being implemented.

With weeks to go before polling day, so many policies and promises have been published that it will be impossible for voters to remember them all. If published on fridge magnets for quick reference and comparison, they'd require extra whitewear space on the freezer, the dishwasher and the clothes drier.

While rugby has 'set piece' competitions in lineouts and scrums, election campaigns have leaders debates. Whereas players from opposing teams line up shoulder-to-shoulder in a lineout and jump to catch the ball thrown in by the hooker of the team that didn't kick it into touch except when ... never mind, too complicated ... televised debates have the party leaders standing side-by-side facing the camera, while on the radio they will be in a circle around the microphone and it doesn't matter whether they are standing or sitting because, well, it's radio.

Party leaders go 'head-to-head' as do the hookers and the props at scrum time while the other forwards go head-to-hip.

If all goes well with the scrum, the ball will pop out the back. The halfback will either pass it to the next available player or, as commentators sometimes say, decide to kick himself.

If the scrum collapses, as it often does, the referee's arm goes out. In serious cases, the referee 'goes to the pocket' and pulls out a card, yellow or red.

TV leaders' debates are stilted affairs, nothing like the debates in Parliament

where there is a room specially designed for them — the debating chamber (the clue's in the name).

For three years the media pay no attention to debates in the House. Then, weeks before the election, they go mad, promoting debates between party leaders as Chris v Chris and David v Himself.

Voters are given a choice: The Chris representing Wellington bureaucracy or the Chris representing Auckland business. Wet Chris or Dry Chris. It couldn't be more simple, literally.

"You won't want to miss this," gushes TV3's Patrick Gower, promoting his channel's leaders' debate as "election-defining".

Gower, television's Quade Cooper, is the most shameless of the stars in the political commentary galaxy in claiming ownership of the election as a vehicle for boosting themselves and their channel's ratings. Forgetting that the purpose of the television debates is to help viewers make an informed choice choice, they are turned into the equivalent of pool matches and the two knockout rounds all in one.

Whereas the Rugby World Cup pool matches are all different and can have some upsets, such as Fiji beating Australia, the leaders' debates contain no surprises or new policies or, in fact, anything that hasn't been known for at least two months. The lack of surprises or any new policies then become news. "No surprises in stalemate debate" and "Disappointing lack of new policies" are the headlines.

Undeterred, political journalists continue to treat the filling of 120 seats in the House with the successful candidates in 72 electorates and the 48 off the party lists (making the party vote the deciding factor in the overall composition of the House) as an American-style presidential contest between two candidates.

After each debate, journalists, commentators and the usual experts gather together in

groups called 'panels' to decide on a winner and analyse performance of the party leaders on the basis of their appearance, deportment and gaffes, or the lack of them. The next day they form new groups, often with the same panellists, or go solo on their blogs, to analyse the analysis.

This is the same approach that Waka Kotahi (formerly NZTA) takes to filling potholes and roadworks in general: never finishing the job. It's called future-proofing, knowing that after a hard day's email there will be always be more potholes to fill and cones to lay out. The Greeks have a word for this approach to work: avrio (the day after tomorrow).

Another way of looking at the election is to think of it as a circus with the polling booths inside the Big Tent. Voters must have a go on all the rides and sideshows, including the Coconut Shy and The Laughing Clowns, before they're allowed to cast their ballot.

Together all their votes will be combined into a set of numbers, called the result, identifying a winner and whether that party will have to work with Winston Peters like it or not.

The result can be determined by just a few hundred votes. This is where the election is most like the Rugby World Cup, which can be won by just one point coming off a lucky bounce of the ball.

Meanwhile, rugby fans and voters alike have had their attention stolen this year by another competition in the rival NRL rugby league code. A string of wins giving the only New Zealand franchise a crack at the final made the cry 'Up the Wahs' the most significant addition to our vocabulary in Māori Language Week.

"Up the Wahs" were even the last words from the Speaker Adrian Rurawhe in the Adjournment Debate that brought the 53rd Parliament to a close, clearing the way for the next one – if we can ever get through this effing election.

KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL
MEETINGS IN OCTOBER 2023

Tuesday, 3 October 2023	Briefing: Long-term Plan (LTP) 2024-34	10.00am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 3 October 2023	Briefing: Affordable Waters Reform	3.00pm	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 10 October 2023	Council Meeting	9.30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 10 October 2023	Paekākāriki Community Board Meeting	7.00pm	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday, 12 October 2023	Social Sustainability Subcommittee Meeting	9.30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday, 12 October 2023	Briefing: Long-term Plan (LTP) 2024-34	1.30pm	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 17 October 2023	Raumati Community Board Meeting	7.00pm	Raumati Bowling Club, Matatua Road, Raumati Beach
Thursday, 19 October 2023	Strategy, Operations and Finance Committee Meeting	9.30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 24 October 2023	Briefing: Renaming of Old State Highway One	2.00pm	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 24 October 2023	Paraparaumu Community Board Meeting	6.30pm	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday, 26 October 2023	Council Meeting	9.30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 31 October 2023	Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti	9.30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 31 October 2023	Waikanae Community Board Meeting	7.00pm	Reikorangi Hall, Reikorangi, Waikanae

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

Kāpiti Coast
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Ma Huri Whakamuri, Ka Tiro Whakamua

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St John Health Shuttle	0800 589 630	Sparky Tom Ltd	027 699 3743
Stroke Support	021 962 366	Concrete Work	
Womens Health	06 364 6367	Bevan Concrete	0800 427522
Helplines		Concrete Doctors	06 364 8634
Alcohol Drug Helpline	0800 787 797	Koastal Kerb	027 554 0003
Depression Helpline	0800 111 757	Rasmac Contractors	0274 443 041
Healthline	0800 611 116	Estate Agents	
Lifeline	0800 543 354	Harcourts	06 364 5284
Mental Health Crisis	0800 653 357	Kelly & Co	06 364 0404
Samaritans	0800 727 666	Professionals	06 364 7720
Victim Support	0800 842 846	Property Brokers	06 364 8350
Youthline	0800 376 633	Tall Poppy	0274 792 772
Community		Funeral Directors	
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Birthright	06 364 5558	I.C. Mark Ltd	06 368 8108
Bridge	021 885 514	Kāpiti Coast Funeral	04 298 5168
Budgeting	06 364 6579	Waikanae Funeral	04 293 6844
Citizens Advice	06 364 8664	Funeral Celebrant	
Cobwebs	021 160 2710	Annie Christie	06 364 0042
Community Club	06 364 8754	Insurance	
Community Patrol	027 230 8836	Inpro	06 364 6123
Energise Ōtaki	027 4443015	Nurseries	
Foodbank	06 364 0051	Strik's 100&1	06 364 7084
Friends of the Ōtaki River	06 364 8918	Talisman	06 364 5893
Genealogy	06 364 7263	Te Horo Garden Centre	06 364 2142
Historical Society	06 364 6543	Watsons Garden Centre	06 364 8758
Let's Sing	06 364 8731	Kāpiti Coast District Council	
Mainly Music	06 364 7099	General Inquiries	06 364 9301
MenzShed	06 364 8303	Toll Free	0800 486 486
Museum	06 364 6886	Ōtaki Library	06 364 9317
Neighbourhood Support	06 366 0574	Ōtaki Swimming Pool	06 364 5542
Ōtaki Players	06 364 6491	Lawyer	
Pottery	06 364 8053	Simco Lawyers	06 364 7285
Rotary	06 927 9010	Hobson Mills Law	06 364 7190
TRSA	06 364 6221	Wakefields Lawyers	04 970 3600
imebank	06 362 6313	Locksmith	
Transition Towns	06 364 5573	Ōtaki Locksmith	021 073 5955
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Zero Waste	027 232 3051	Mower & Engineering	06 364 5411
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Age Concern	0800 243 266	Henderson Plumbing	06 364 5252
Kāpiti Coast Grey Power	04 902 5680	Ryan Plumbing & Gas	027 243 6451
Kids		Rest Homes	
Scouting	06 364 8949	Enliven	0508 365 483
Toy Library	06 364 3411	Ocean View	06 364 7399
Marriage celebrants		Computers	
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Dean Brain	027 756 2230	Sports Clubs	
Penny Gaylor	027 664 8869	Ōtaki Sports	027 327 1179
Roofer		Rahui Football & Athletics	06 364 5980
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Ōtaki Rangiatea Church
33–37 Te Rauparaha St
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Church viewing hours, school terms:
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Tel: 364 6838
Email: rangiatega.church@xtra.co.nz

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Levin Ngatokowaru Marae
4th Sunday, 11am

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ŌSLSC: A changing of the guard, and the new season begins

BY SHELLY WARWICK



At the recent AGM, the Ōtaki Surf Lifesaving Club had some of the sitting committee stand aside, and some new people take up positions.

Graeme Lundie stood down as Chair of the Ōtaki Club after six years in the role. One of his jobs in that time was navigating the club through the Covid restrictions, which presented many challenges. Graeme joined in 2011, has been a lifeguard for 12 years and was on the committee for nine years. Nikki Lundie has been a lifeguard for 11 years and on the committee as publicity officer for four years. Nikki had, however, worked on fundraising for many more years, with one of her successes being the grant of an IRB, motor and trailer for the club – worth \$24,000.

Jutta Crowe joined the club in 2006, has been a lifeguard for 16 years and on the committee for 11 years, holding many roles such as junior surf administrator.

These members are appreciated for undertaking their respective committee roles and will be very much missed in them. They will, however, continue to remain members of the club, providing invaluable expertise and experience. All three of these members joined to support their children

who were members, but the kids have moved on and the parents have remained in the club. Surf club is truly a family affair and once you're in, you're 'In it for Life', as the saying goes!

Junior Surf (Nippers) is now ramping up its recruitment and training for the 2023–24 season and will begin swim training at the Ōtaki pool on Thursday nights from 7 till 8pm. Our young members need to train at the pool pre season so they are confident and fit before doing surf training at the beach. Nippers must be between seven and 13 years old and able to swim two lengths of the Ōtaki pool non stop. Beach sessions will run from November till mid March.

If you and/or your child(ren) are interested, you can just turn up to a Thursday night pool session to try it out. The first session is free, then, should you want to join, annual membership is \$90 for an individual and \$150 for a family. You can go online to get further information at <https://www.otakisurfclub.co.nz>

Our club is a very family-oriented club and the journey of Surf Club holds so many opportunities for kids to be active, learn skills and increase their fitness. Come along and give it a go.



Cubs enjoy fancy dress

BY FRANK NEILL

The Ōtaki Cub Pack celebrated the end of term three with a fancy dress party and games night on 20 September.

“Everyone had a fabulous night in character,” the Ōtaki Cub’s Akela, Annie Bythell, says.

The costumes the Cubs dressed in included Princess Candy Cane, Queen Blossom, a Hogwarts trainee, a penguin, a bear cub, a gangster and a leprechaun.

The winning costumes was worn by Freddie, who came dressed as Speaker Man. Freddie’s grandfather made the costume.

The theme for the Cubs this term has been 'fire'. The Cubs have learned how to be safe around fire.

A campfire was held at the Ōtaki Gorge, featuring an A-frame with the Cubs singing loudly into the cool night.

The cubs also visited the Otaki Fire Station

with host Senior Firefighter Simon Black recently.

Simon showed the Cubs the fire trucks and what all the gear is used for.

Simon has been a regular trainer with Cubs for the last five years, taking them for first-aid badges and teaching them general emergency safety awareness.

This is very much in line with the Cubs’ motto: Be Prepared.

Cubs is for girls and boys aged 8 to 11 years old and the Pack meets from 6pm to 7:30pm on Wednesdays at Haruātai Park.

For those interested search Scouts.NZ online and click on the Join section to find your local (Ōtaki) club.

“Your child can try it out for a couple of weeks before deciding if it is for them,” Annie says.

below: Freddie in his winning Speaker Man costume



below: Cub leader Roger Pooley (back left) and Senior Firefighter Simon Black with the Ōtaki Cub Pack at the Fire Station.



Ōtaki Canoe Club

Annual General Meeting

To be held at the Ōtaki Pool
Haruātai Park, Ōtaki
Tuesday, 17 October 2023
6.30 p.m.

All welcome



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