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December 2023

## Merry Christmas and a Safe Summer to All



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## ŌTAKI MAIL MADNESS

Complaints that bilingual signs will be confusing

Look at that Māori word Agnes, how on earth am I supposed to know what it means?

Just a wild guess Ron, but it may be something to do with a school



© Patti

### Ōtaki Mail

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## Lawyers play important role in subdivisions

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BY FLEUR HOBSON

You may be thinking of subdividing your property so you can benefit from the sale price. Or you might be considering buying a block of land and subdividing it.

These can both be good ways to boost your bank account. However, subdividing is an expensive and time-consuming process.

You may also have to pay tax on any profit you do make, depending on when and how you acquired the land.

Because subdividing is anything but a simple process, it is a very good idea to carefully weigh up the costs and the benefits.

Before you take your first steps, such as engaging a surveyor to prepare a survey plan for example, you need to consult a lawyer who is experienced in subdivisions.

The lawyer will look at a series of important issues. Firstly, the lawyer will look at whether or not you are allowed to subdivide the land you are considering. Secondly, the lawyer will investigate whether subdividing is feasible in your circumstances.

Subdividing is a long and involved process. A whole series of steps is involved. These include:

- getting resource consent from the Kāpiti Coast District Council (if the land is in Kāpiti);
- preparing a survey plan;
- getting your plan approved by the council;

- lodging the subdivision plan with Land Information New Zealand (LINZ);

- getting LINZ approval of the plan; and

- lodging the new titles with LINZ. Your lawyer will be able to assist you with this complex set of steps.

As well as working with your lawyer, you will find that it is necessary to consult a surveyor or planner and you may also need to consult an engineer. It may be that you are able

to subdivide, but that your proposal will have to be publicly notified and go to a hearing.

Once again, this is outside the expertise of most people, but within the expertise of a lawyer experienced in land matters.

Your lawyer will also be needed to prepare the necessary legal documents such as easements or covenants.

Some people have, after looking at their situation, decided that

subdividing is not worth the time and cost.

Others, however, have found it of great financial benefit, and some have found the process beneficial emotionally and mentally as well.

At Hobson Mills Law, we will be happy to help if you are thinking subdividing may be right for you. Contact Fleur, Susie or Freya at Hobson Mills Law, phone 364 7190, 282 Mill Road – opposite Farmlands.

# HOBSON MILLS LAW

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# Riley Moy named Wellington young golfer of the year, again

BY FRANK NEILL

Outstanding Ōtaki golfer Riley Moy has won the Wellington Eagles Young Golfer of the Year award not just once but two years in a row.

Riley won the 2023 award jointly with Tesia Mania Vaka, who plays for the Shandon Golf Club and they were presented the plate on 17 November.

In doing so, Riley and Tesia have joined such famous golfers as Michael Campbell, a former winner of the award.

Following his very successful 2022, Riley has added another year of stellar performances.

Riley was selected in Wellington’s Shand Cup team that competed in the Junior Quad tournament in April, helping the capital to victory over Taranaki, Manawatū–Whanganui and the Hawke’s Bay.

He was also a member of the Watt Cup team that won the competition, the Wellington region’s top junior interclub grade.

The reigning Ōtaki strokeplay and matchplay champion, Riley also played for his club in the interclub competition, helping Ōtaki to victory in division 2 and winning promotion to division 1.

Good results at the Wellington under-19 Strokeplay, where he finished 6th, and the Wellington 72-Hole Strokeplay, where he was 16th in a strong open men’s field, saw Riley selected for the boys under-19 national interprovincial team.

At 16 years of age, Riley was the youngest member of the team.

This year the Paraparaumu Golf Club also asked him to play for them in the Duncan

Cup competition.

Riley performed very well in both the South Island and the New Zealand strokeplay championships. He finished 8th in the South Island event and 14th in the national event.

He also currently has the lowest handicap in the Ōtaki Golf Club

“He’s done well,” Riley’s father, Aaron Moy says.

“He deserves the awards he got.

“He’s achieved some good results this year and he has transitioned well from the under-16 to the under-19 golf.

“And he works hard at his game,” Mr Moy adds.

The Eagles Golfing Society of New Zealand is a charitable organisation that supports the Halberg Disability Sports Foundation, junior golf, visiting clubs and fellowship of members.

The Wellington Eagles Young Golfer of the Year award is open to players aged under 17 and who are New Zealand residents.



**right: Riley Moy (right) and Tesia Mania Vaka with the plate they had just been presented as joint winners of the Wellington Eagles Young Golfer of the Year award .**



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BY VIVIENNE BAILEY

**Te Horo Railway Station: past and present**

Once a simple flag station (described as a weatherboard lean-to or shelter) based at Te Horo and part of the North Island Main Trunk line between Te Horo and Wellington, the district's defunct railway station will shortly begin a new life as a restored and upgraded home for the first of a succession of resident potters at The Kilns at Te Horo arts, cultural and historical centre.

The history of the former station is uncertain, but the original building is thought to have been constructed in 1896. At that time, it was also the site of a post office and a goods shed. Cattle yards were extended in 1901, and a sheep-loading race and platform added. Various improvements were installed after the New Zealand Railways (NZR) took over in 1908, including tablet signaling.

Fire reportedly destroyed the station on 4 November 1923. The replacement, a Type B Troup concept, was built in 1924, designed by notable NZR architect, George Troup (who also designed Ōtaki Railway Station,

opened in 1911). Te Horo's spacious new station was built of matai, featured a lobby, ladies waiting room, a tablet porter's office and kauri benches in the waiting room.

A series of railway houses were built through the years (from 1892 through to 1951) and water tanks were removed in 1959. The building became an unattended crossing station from 19 May 1962, but by 1965 the goods shed had deteriorated, with the stockyards closing in February 1966. They were removed in 1967. Te Horo Railway Station was closed to all rail traffic in 1971, and later sold to renowned locally based potter Mirek Smíšek, who relocated the building to his garden as part of a pottery centre.

The Kilns at Te Horo will open mid-December 2023.

**Drinks and Nibbles**

Remember the Christmas Twilight Drinks and Nibbles at Te Horo Hall, Friday 1 December, 5.30pm. BYO drinks and a plate of nibbles to share – a community Christmas celebration. All welcome.

# Wanted to rent

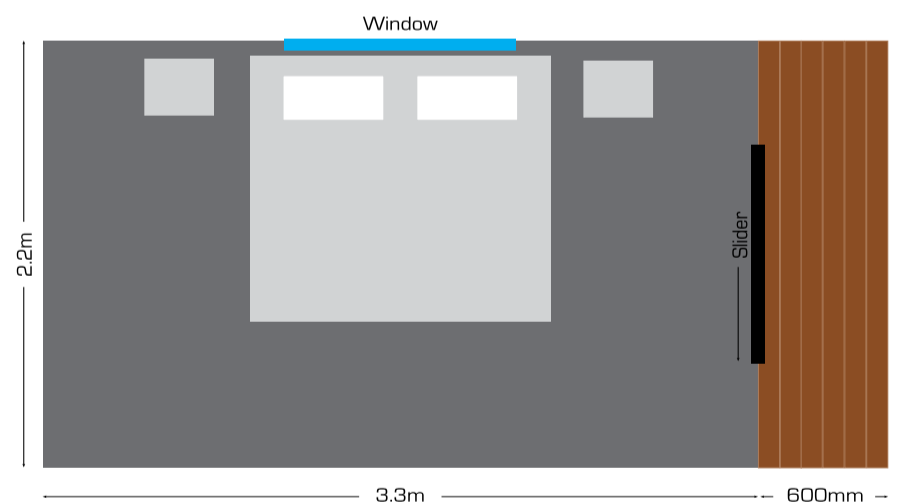
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Te Horo Railway Station, 1979. Image courtesy of Kāpiti Coast District Council Archives



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# How Ōtaki voted in the General Election

BY LLOYD CHAPMAN

Last month we voted Labour out of office. As a wise political observer said: ‘Parties don’t win elections, they lose them’. Three years ago, Labour newcomer Teresa Ngobi defeated new opponent Tim Costley by 48% to 41% of the Ōtaki electorate’s 46,000 voters.

This time, Costley got 50% of the votes to Labour’s 36%. Ōtaki’s voting closely

mirrored the nation’s voting preference: the dissatisfaction with Labour showing as substantial votes for the three other parties: Green, ACT and NZ First.

In the three pie charts below, Costley is seen to get just over half of all votes in the left-hand chart. The centre chart shows how party voting went in Ōtaki. This chart is

virtually identical to party votes across the nation, as shown in the third pie chart, with 12% for the Greens, 9% for ACT vote and 6% for NZ First.

The bar chart on the right shows that voter turnout was slightly down this time, the red bars representing this years voting, blue bars 2020.

In the next *Ōtaki Mail*, we will dissect voting in the Ōtaki electorate in a polling booth by polling booth analysis. In 2020, voting showed the northern end of the electorate (Foxton and Levin) voted more strongly Labour, while the Southern end (Waikanae and Paraparaumu) voted National. Watch this space!

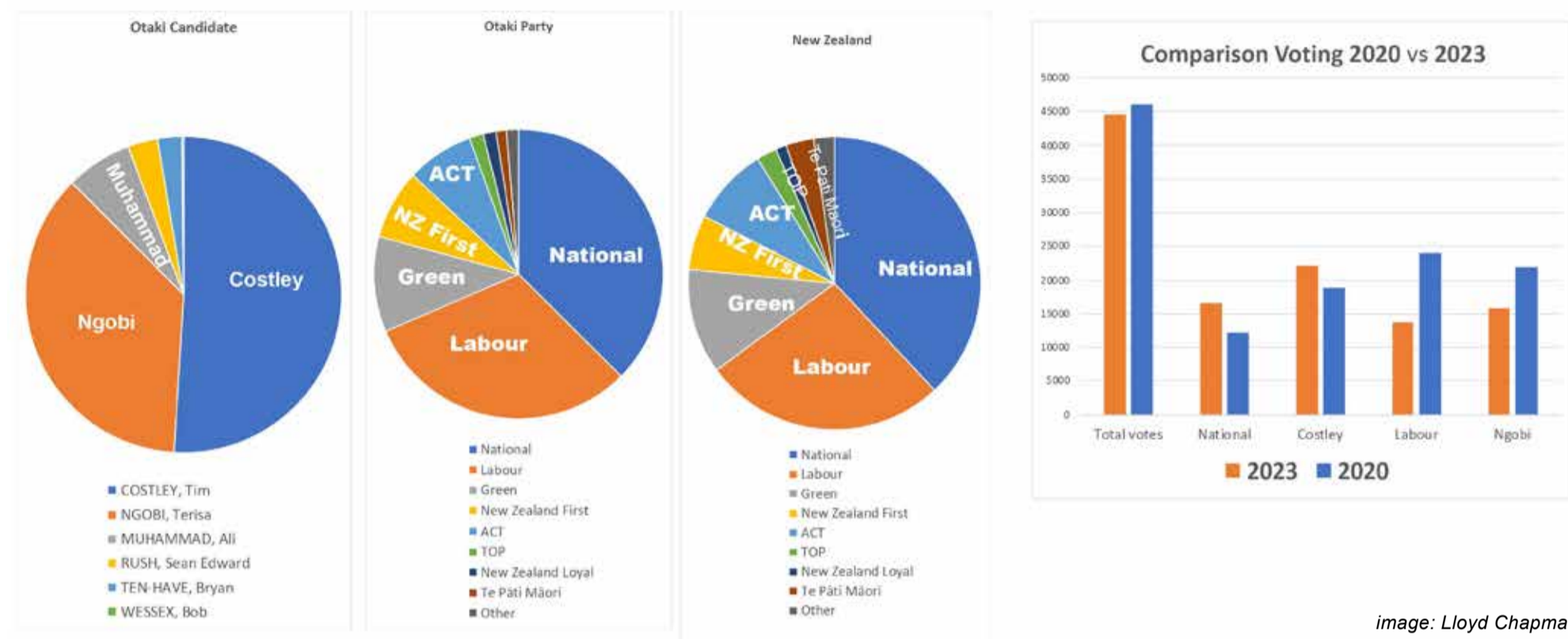


image: Lloyd Chapman

# A million trees in the name of Papatūānuku



This winter, Greater Wellington planted over 922,000 seedlings in parks, wetlands, rivers and erosion-prone land across the region, with the help of mana whenua, keen landowners, schools and community groups. 80 percent of the young trees were native species.

Greater Wellington Environment Committee chair Penny Gaylor lauds the many green fingers, shovels, and gumboots that went into the ambitious project.

“Planting nearly a million trees in a few months is a restoration effort of extraordinary scale, but together, we’ve adorned Papatūānuku (Mother Earth) in a magnificent million-tree cloak,” says Cr Gaylor.

“A forest is a community – rich with diversity and connections – much like our local communities. Our community planting days were hugely successful, where everyone came together in the name of Papatūānuku.

“Projects to restore our forests and natural spaces are at the heart of Greater Wellington’s kaupapa as kaitiaki of our environment and active responders to climate change.”

Ecosystems and community manager David Boone says when it comes to tree planting, there can never be too much of a good thing.

“Our team’s careful planning led to the thousands of seedlings now spread across our regional parks, natural spaces and private land, ensuring the right tree, in the right place, for the right purpose.”

“Tree planting is one of the most important roles we can play in regenerating our ecosystems. This year’s winter planting included Greater Wellington’s Recloning Papatūānuku programme, which will steadily phase out grazing in our regional parks,

covering former farmland in native bush. “Our planting programmes also support private landowners who want to save their soils, protect their waterways and improve water quality in their catchments.”

There are now:

- 362,300 more native plants in Wellington’s regional parks
- 34,850 more native plants in and around the Wairarapa Moana wetlands
- 282,400 more plants preventing hill country erosion across the region.
- 64,000 more native plants enhancing our river management and flood protection systems.
- 135,700 more native plants on private land, complementing river care, biodiversity and land retirement initiatives led by landowners.

Akura Nursery officer Rachel Scanlan says Greater Wellington is incorporating more eco-sourced seedlings into its planting programmes.

“Indigenous species take one to three years to grow from seed to seedling. Here in the Wairarapa, 89 percent of the seeds we collate are eco-sourced, which means seeds are collected, germinated, and returned as plants to their original area,” Akura Nursery officer Rachel Scanlan says.

“Eco-sourced or locally-grown trees mean the seedlings grow well in local conditions and enrich the biodiversity rather than replace it.

“To prevent hill country erosion, we plant exotic species like willows and poplars. They grow quickly, producing vast root networks that bind soil and prevent mass movement. In some areas, exotics are planted with natives to provide shelter – a kind of natural nursery for the slower-growing natives.”

The planting of nearly a million trees required a range of funding sources, including Greater Wellington’s own Low Carbon Acceleration Fund to help reach its carbon neutral goals, the government’s Climate Emergency Response Fund, the One Billion Trees programme, and the resources of private landowners.

Council chair Daran Ponter says Greater Wellington’s planting initiatives are part of a wider conservation picture.

“There are fantastic initiatives happening across the Wellington Region, like the work of Predator Free Wellington and Zealandia who have recently celebrated their own milestones,” says Cr Ponter.

“Predator Free eliminated rats, stoats and weasels from the Miramar Peninsula, and Zealandia received the Supreme Tourism Award for 2023.

“Every tree and trap help protect our precious ecosystems, and collectively we’re working toward better outcomes for te taiao.”

Now the weather is getting warmer, Cr Ponter encourages everyone to explore our regional parks: “Get out there – it’s your backyard, and soon there’ll be plenty of summer events to enjoy with friends and whānau.”

source: GWRC



School planting at Queen Elizabeth Park

# Taking Ōtaki's pulse

## Keeping Up to Date with Your Covid Vaccinations

BY ANN CHAPMAN

Much as we like to pretend it isn't, Covid is still with us and the need to keep vaccinated is still there.

Booster vaccinations provide an extra layer of protection on top of your previous ones and aimed at keeping your immunity levels high.

Te Whatu Ora (The Health Authority) is reminding everyone that additional COVID-19 booster doses continue to be available for those who are eligible. This includes people aged 30 and older, and those aged 16 to 29 who are pregnant or are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Having COVID-19 does not provide the same level of immunity as getting vaccinated. The protection from the primary course (this is usually 2 doses) of the vaccine decreases over time.

To keep your immunity levels high, stay up to date with your vaccinations — including boosters. This will lower your chances of getting very sick from COVID-19 and ending up in hospital.

Te Whatu Ora advise that if you are eligible,

you can receive an additional COVID-19 booster dose, regardless of how many doses you had previously. You need to wait six months between doses, and it's recommended that you wait six months after your last COVID-19 infection.

For those who are already up to date with COVID-19 boosters, the people who are most likely to benefit from another COVID-19 booster in late 2023 include:

- Anyone aged 75 and older
- Māori and Pacific people aged 65 and older
- People aged 30 to 74 with significant complex health needs
- People aged 16 and older who are severely immunocompromised.

You can book an appointment by visiting [bookmyvaccine.nz](https://bookmyvaccine.nz) (external link), checking [Healthpoint](https://healthpoint.nz) (external link) for vaccination locations near you, or by talking to your doctor, pharmacist or hauora provider.

Keep yourself safe. Keep your family safe. Keep your community safe.



## The Rongoā Space

BY JOANNE HAKARAIA

### Rongoā of the Month ANGIANGI

Angiangi, also known as Usnea or Old Man's Beard, is a type of lichen that has been used for centuries in traditional plant medicine for its various health benefits. It is known for its potent antimicrobial properties that make it effective in treating various infections caused by bacteria and viruses.

Angiangi are very slow growing; they are mostly found on old growth trees within unpolluted habitats. They are very pollution-sensitive, so can be used as an indicator to determine the environmental health of an area. Angiangi is a type of lichen composed of an alga and a fungus. It has a stretchy outer layer and a thin, white, stretchy inner core. Its outer layer gives it colour and allows for photosynthesis.

#### Infections

Angiangi contains usnic acid, a potent antibacterial compound, making it useful in treating bacteria. It is a go-to plant for infections in the lungs and bronchial area. It can effectively help to relieve pneumonia, sinus infections, bronchitis, colds, flu and other respiratory complaints. It is used in preparations to increase resistance to colds and influenza.

#### A Wound Healer

Angiangi was more commonly used as an antiseptic wound healer that helped to prevent infection as well as stop bleeding.

Autumn is the best time to harvest Angiangi as the heavy rains can often break branches off of old trees and then the rongoā can be gathered from the forest floor. It can stay in good condition on the ground due to its antibiotic & anti-fungal properties. It is much more responsible to harvest it from the fallen branches, rather than living trees, due to its slow growth rate. I also find a good time to harvest is after we've had a lot of wind. Fresh angiangi can often be found on the ground.

I usually like to dry angiangi and then crush it up into a powder. Store the powder in an airtight container and use when needed. The powder can be applied directly onto wounds as an antiseptic and antibacterial.

I tincture fresh angiangi and then dilute the tincture to use to clean wounds or for skin infections.

The diluted tincture can be also used as a gargle for sore throats.

#### How to Tincture Angiangi

1. Place a handful of fresh angiangi into a glass jar and cover with alcohol.
2. A jam jar is suitable and fill to the top with either Vodka or Brandy. The

alcohol extracts the rongoā from the angiangi.

3. Let it sit in a cupboard for 4 - 6 weeks giving the jar a shake every day.

4. Strain and place the fluid into a clear jar or bottle and keep in a cool, dry room.

For questions, or to learn more, please contact me for a rongoā consultation.

Angiangi is one of six rongoā we use in our popular Raukawa Throat Spray. We have this product instore at The Rongoā Mauri Studio, 211D Main Highway, Ōtaki, or online [www.rongoamauri.com](http://www.rongoamauri.com)

*Please note, this is not to be used during pregnancy.*

*Always consult your health-care provider before using any herbal products, especially if you have a medical problem.*



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## Preserving antibiotics for future generations

Antimicrobials, such as antibiotics, are one of medicine’s most precious resources, but increasing antimicrobial resistance means these medicines are becoming less effective over time.

Many potentially deadly infections are treatable with antibiotics, and they are very effective against common

problems like urinary tract, skin and chest infections. However, AMR is a growing problem both here in New Zealand and around the world. As more and more bacteria develop resistance against antibiotics, infections like these become harder to treat, and can once again become a serious threat.

Antibiotics are used in a wide range of settings – from veterinary care through to prescriptions from your general practice or hospital specialist – and their wise use is one of the best methods available to us to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of antibiotics for future generations.

This is a crucial space where everyone, from prescribers to patients, can take an active role.

For prescribers, that means ensuring antibiotics are only used in cases where they will be effective – not for viral infections like colds or the flu.

For patients, you can access ad-

vice from Healthline and community pharmacies if you have symptoms of an infection, as well as from your

“ complete the course as stopping early can lead to more resistance ”

general practice. If they diagnose a viral infection, antibiotics will not be effective, and you may be advised to

simply rest at home. If it is felt that your infection is caused by bacteria and you are prescribed antibiotics, make sure to complete the whole course even if you start feeling better, as stopping early can lead to more resistance.

A step you can take right now is checking your medicine cabinet for any leftover antibiotics you may have, and taking them to your local pharmacy for safe disposal.

To learn more about AMR and what you can do to keep antimicrobials working, visit: Antimicrobial resistance.



### ‘One Body One Life’ approach to wellbeing

Personal Trainer Paula Signal says ‘One Body One Life’ is her personal philosophy for achieving happiness and wellbeing. As a certified personal trainer, she is passionate about health and fitness and loves what she does. Paula became interested in the fitness industry when a friend introduced her to body and figure sculpting. Since then, she has competed and won at many regional and national competitions in New Zealand.

This experience has helped her gain a vast practical knowledge of how the human body works. Along with qualifications in

rehabilitation training and sports nutrition, she can offer you the full benefits of her knowledge and experience to help you reach your goals.

Paula specialises in one to one training for women & men; nutritional guidance; core conditioning & strengthening; motivation & goal setting; improved strength & toning; weight loss support; sports event training; and individual programmes tailored to your needs.

What will you do with your one body one life? Call Paula!

### P2 Health expands their range of services

The P2 Health Collective have been nestled in the centre of the Ōtaki Health scene for the better half of a decade. For those who haven’t yet seen them, they have been expanding.

It’s crucial for a community to have access to a comprehensive range of health services that meet the specific needs of its residents. By expanding their services and renovating their facilities, they are striving to bridge the gap and ensure the Ōtaki community has access to the healthcare it requires.

If you haven’t visited their newly renovated modern facilities yet, it might be worth checking them out. Their diverse range of services, including physiotherapy, osteopathy, podiatry, and counselling, could provide expert advice and assistance for various ailments.

Plus, supporting local businesses like the P2 Health Collective helps strengthen the community and ensures continued access to essential services.

## Zero Waste Ōtaki: Your DIY Bonanza

BY DAVE MACINTYRE

Now is the time to stock up on supplies for those long-awaited DIY projects over the summer holidays – and Zero Waste Ōtaki is the place to get what you need.

For those who have never visited the ZWŌ site next to the Ōtaki transfer station, it is a treasure-trove of recycled timber that is perfect for home projects and is available at very affordable prices.

Wood is sorted into categories, such as piles, fence posts, fence palings, decking, interior framing wood and plywood. Stacking, sorting and de-nailing is also undertaken.

Wood types that need protection from the weather are being stored in racks inside two big old shelters – donated by local companies Stresscrete and Mac Engineering – which were dismantled, moved and re-erected on site. The galvanised steel racks were given to us by Ōtaki Cold Storage.

Doors (both interior and exterior), beadings and trimmings, and a various other finished objects – including a set of wooden bunk beds complete with a ladder – are stored in three containers on site.

A selection of windows is also available. One person took leadlight-style doors from a cabinet, fitted them into a frame and created an attractive window in their home. The photograph shows the finished effect with the cabinet doors repurposed and fitted into the wall.

Another has taken a selection of windows to create a garden glasshouse.

Other novel items made from ZWŌ recycled wood include a bird-feeding station, a crate for transporting dogs to the vet or kennels, a chicken coop, and a card or jigsaw table made from a plywood offcut covered with green felt and with trims added at the sides.

Also available at present are many concrete pavers, which are proving very popular buys. The majority of the pavers are 230 x 190 x 50mm thick, and are available for the very reasonable price of 50 cents each.

So, come and stock up for your summer holiday DIY

projects. Our volunteers will help direct you to the supplies you need.

ZWŌ is open to the public every Wednesday from 9.30–10.30 am; on the last Sunday of the month from 9.00–12.00; and at other times by arrangement (phone 028 8520 9936).

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

**right: cabinet doors were repurposed into an attractive window**



**below: a card and jigsaw table made from a base of recycled plywood**



## Energise Ōtaki: Funding for flourishing

BY EMILY MCDOWELL

'Growth' – you probably don't want one. If it's 'unlimited' it's a scam.

Supporting it is a skill shared by Whakahiko Ōtaki–Energise Ōtaki Fund recipients.

This year the committee awarded 'sun-funding' to help grow the gardens of Ōtaki College (Aho Aho), St. Peter's Chanel School (A Lil Bee) and Crooked Vege Ōtaki.

Crooked Vege will put theirs towards a solar irrigation system.

Māoriland will receive funding to support a new seminar series, bringing together inspirational people for community kōrero and follow-up actions.

Funding has also been awarded to Ōtaki Carbon Forests for education materials.

The final two recipients are getting money for repairs: Ōtaki Playcentre for their playhouse and deck; and Warm Up Ōtaki for helping with heat (and health!) retention in eligible households.

Thank you very much to everyone who put energy into applying. If the sun had shone twice as much, there would've been enough solar-farm revenue to fund all the great ideas. (But then we would've had other problems.)

Ōtaki Playcentre continues their 'repair' theme by running the kai stand at the last Ōtaki Repair Café of 2023. Bring in your broken items, get them fixed...then give them away these holidays! Repairing and sharing is caring for the planet: we're avoiding carbon emissions by not buying new stuff.

Is it worth it? This month researchers revised our global 'carbon budget'. It seems that to avoid going over 1.5 degrees of global warming, we need to get to 'net zero' global carbon emissions by 2034, not 2050.



**Is this a forest-to-be? Landowners Rob Heather (centre) and Mereama Winterburn (right) talk with Ōtaki Carbon Forest expert Chris Livesey about transforming their land.**

That's very, very tight. Every ton saved leads to less global-temperature increase and subsequent destruction. So, yes, it is worth it.

While we're putting out less carbon, we need to be sucking it in too.

Ōtaki Carbon Forests is compiling a booklet on the best plants/trees for our area, with

a list of suppliers offering discounts, potential funding sources and how to apply.

This will be available next year along with more public seminars. Everyone is welcome to join the volunteer planting group!

Happy end-of-the-year, Ōtaki. Thank you to all the growers, pruners, fine-tuners and partners-in-shine.

May all your visions for 2024 be 20/20.

Ōtaki Repair Café: Sunday, 3 December (10am – 2pm) at Ōtaki Memorial Hall.

Want to join a tree-planting group?

Email: [otaki.carbonforests@gmail.com](mailto:otaki.carbonforests@gmail.com)



# Ōtaki Update

December 2023



## Parade & Festival

Voyle & Co  
REALTY

Kāpiti Coast  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Me Huri Whakamuri, Ka Titiro Whakamua



## Christmas is nearly here – help us celebrate!

The floats are booked and entertainment is locked in – all that’s needed is you! Come along to the **Kāpiti Christmas Parade and Festival on Sunday 10 December** and help us connect as a community through Christmas cheer. The parade will start at 11am followed by the festival, which will run until 4pm. Thanks to Southward Car Museum for hosting this event, and Voyle and Co for their support to help make it happen.

With support from our Disability Advisory Group, we’ll also have a separate low sensory Santa session for those who prefer things more low key. This free whānau event will be at Lorna Irene Reserve on Sunday 3 December from 10–11.30am. Visit with Santa and enjoy our all-abilities playground with its inclusive swing, sensory play opportunities, and wheelchair-accessible equipment, with ice creams, facepainting and a sausage sizzle available throughout the morning.

► Visit: [kapiticoast.govt.nz/Christmas](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/Christmas)

**Make the most of summer with our pools, events, and open spaces! We’ve got something for everyone. Check out [kapiticoast.govt.nz](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz)**



### Fresh surface for Ōtaki Domain tennis courts

The Ōtaki Domain tennis courts will be getting a fresh new playing surface just in time for summer. Resurfacing is likely to start at short notice and will take around three weeks to complete. When work begins the courts will be closed – thanks for your patience!

#### FUN FACT!

The work is being done by the team who looks after Auckland’s ASB Tennis Arena – home of the ASB Classic – so we can be sure of a smashing result.



### Kāpiti to have a Māori ward

Councillors have voted to establish a Māori ward ahead of the 2025 local body elections. The majority of councillors supported the move.

While the overall result of the community feedback was not in favour, the breakdown of the results showed strong support from people most directly affected: those on the Māori electoral roll and rangatahi (aged 15–34). Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki, who represent mana whenua, supported any change that increases Māori representation either locally or nationally.

This triggers a representation review, which must take place next year for the Māori ward to be in place for the 2025 election.

► Visit: [kapiticoast.govt.nz/MaoriWard](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/MaoriWard)



### Second Ōtaki Reservoir coming

With support from the Infrastructure Acceleration Fund, we’re building two new reservoirs in Ōtaki to improve resilience and firefighting capability.

We started earthworks in preparation for construction of reservoir 1 on Te Manuao Road in October. We also recently started early investigations for reservoir 2.

The second reservoir will service homes around the Waitohu Plateau and will supplement the existing reservoir, which is nearing the end of its life and doesn’t meet modern seismic standards. When possible sites are identified, we’ll engage with neighbours who could be impacted. We expect to identify a preferred site before the end of the year.

► Visit: [kapiticoast.govt.nz/Otaki-reservoir](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/Otaki-reservoir)

# Outstanding swims by Ōtaki Titans

BY FRANK NEILL

Three Ōtaki Titans swimmers performed outstandingly at the All Stars Junior Festival, held at the Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre from 10 to 12 November.

Lilah Eager hit the podium twice and added three fourth placings.

She won silver in the 200 metres freestyle, shaving 1.97 seconds from her previous personal-best time when she clocked 2 minutes 25.7 seconds.

She finished third in the 50 metres freestyle and fourth in the 100 metres individual medley, 100 metres backstroke and 200 metres butterfly, setting new personal-best times in the backstroke and butterfly.

Her sister Roselle also swam well, finishing 21st in the 100 metres individual medley.

Deryn Watkins established some amazing new personal best times.

She slashed 10.35 seconds off her previous personal-best times in both the 50 metres breaststroke and 50 metres freestyle, and chopped 7.98 seconds off her previous personal-best time in the 100 metres backstroke.

The Titans team came away from the Gold Coast Chocolate and Ribbon Carnival, held at the Coastlands Pool on 5 November, with the Personal Best Trophy.

This trophy is awarded to the club achieving the most personal-best times on a percentage basis.

Nine Titans set 16 new personal-best times at the meeting.

Both Carys and Deryn Watkins set new best times in the 50 metres breaststroke. Deryn also set new personal bests in the 50 metres butterfly and 50 metres backstroke.

Jacob Winter, Liam Fu and Greer set new personal bests in the 50 metres butterfly. Jacob's second personal-best time came in the 25 metres freestyle, while Greer also set new personal bests in the 100 metres butterfly and the 100 metres individual medley.

Sorcha Hipkins' personal bests came in the 100 metres individual medley and the 50 metres freestyle.

The 50 metres freestyle also saw Elijah Jennings swim a personal best and he added a second in the 50 metres backstroke.

Kokoro Frost and Chelsea Holland recorded new personal-best times in the 200 metres individual medley.

Kokoro Frost and Seuga Frost represented Samoa in the Pacific Games, held in the Solomon Islands beginning on 19 November.

Kokoro was Co-Captain of the Samoan team and Seuga was officiating on the pool deck.

right: some of the Ōtaki Titans team at the Gold Coast Chocolate and Ribbon Carnival with the Personal Best Trophy they won.



# Mini Ball Basketball, six-week 'extravaganza'

BY PAXMAN TAURIMA

In a thrilling display of talent and teamwork, the annual Ōtaki Mini Ball Basketball League recently concluded its six-week extravaganza, featuring enthusiastic participation from all local Ōtaki primary schools. The league, which brought together young athletes, provided a platform for skill development, friendly competition, and the

chance for budding new referees to learn and gain experience.

The mini ball league, catering to various age groups, show-cased a real passion for basketball among the youngest members of our Ōtaki community. The participating schools – Te Rito, Te Kura-a-Iwi o Whakatupuranga Rua Mano (WRM),

Manakau, Waitohu, St Peter Chanel and Ōtaki School – fielded teams across different grades, fostering healthy competition and a great opportunity for whanaungatanga.

A huge thank-you to our league sponsor, All Area Scaffolding, which is an Ōtaki business that has supported Raukawa

basketball for a number of years.

Final winners of each grade:

- Year 1–2 grade: WRM Pīwari
- Year 3–4 grade: WRM Te Haeata
- Year 5–6 grade: Te Rito Mana
- Year 7–8 grade: WRM



# Tag for everyone

BY TERRY POKO

Ōtaki Tag is off to a great start this season with 12 junior teams and 18 senior social teams competing. That's total of over 450 participants this season.

The junior competition is going well and the feedback has been awesome. Families and volunteers are all onboard. This year

we are sending an U12s team to compete at junior nationals in Auckland. Last year this same team returned home unbeaten.

We have attracted players for the senior grade from as far afield as Porirua and Levin. This year, due to the number of

senior teams (18) we have split the competition into open and social grades.

For me, the exciting part of Ōtaki Tag this season is junior competition, which has tripled the number of people at Ōtaki Domain on a Tuesday evening.

-The vibe is the same and the focus, as always, is our whānau and everyone participating.

This year the Tag competition is sponsored by Drafted Architectural Design and supported by Concrete Doctors.

*images supplied*





# Gardening with

## Garden tasks for December



**Christmas & New Year Hours**

**CLOSED:**  
Christmas Day  
Monday 25th Dec  
& Boxing Day  
Tuesday 26th Dec

**OPEN:**  
Wednesday 27th –  
Saturday 30th Dec

**CLOSED:**  
New Year's Day  
Monday 1st Jan  
& Public Holiday  
Tuesday 2nd Jan

**Normal hours  
resume from  
Wednesday 3rd  
January 2024**



### Flower garden

Lift spring flowering bulbs once leaves have died down completely, and store in a cool, dry place.

Roses and perennials can still be planted, but make sure your new plants are well watered.

Layer mulch around the base of shrubs to conserve moisture and protect roots from hot sun, particularly azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons.

Your cuttings from dahlia and chrysanthemum will develop quickly if given applications of liquid fertiliser.

Cistus, cuphea, daphne, fuchsia, hydrangea, lavender and poinsettia cuttings taken now will grow.

That first wonderful flush of flowering from your roses is over – remove dead flowers to encourage further blooms, and feed with rose fertiliser.

Sow ageratum, cosmos, cyclamen, rudbeckia, marigolds and zinnia.

Plant out seedlings of chrysanthemum, dianthus, gypsophila, portulaca and salvia.

### Fruit and vegetable garden

This is a month of rapid growth – pay regular attention to watering, weeding, feeding and spraying.

Tomatoes can be feed at least once a week with a fast acting liquid feed. Remove laterals (side growths) on tall varieties as they grow and make sure they're firmly staked – water regularly.

Caterpillars are out and about – protect your plants with derris dust or organic caterpillar control.

Courgettes and cucumbers can be protected from powdery mildew with organic copper oxychloride.

You can still sow seeds directly into soil – beans, beetroot, parsnip, swedes, radish, lettuce, spinach and sweetcorn – sow seeds every two weeks to ensure a continuous harvest.

Plant out seedlings of lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, cucumber, spinach, tomato, courgette, spring onion, beetroot, pumpkin, capsicum, eggplant and cauliflower.

Remember to keep a layer of mulch around vegetable plants to conserve soil moisture – compost works well.

Feed all fruit trees for great crops later – water well to prevent fruit drop.

Grapevines should be stopped in their growth by pinching out excess growth beyond a point where the fruit has set. Training of grapevines is important to prevent tangling and where there is a surplus of fruit, they should be thinned – the final grape crop will be much improved by this treatment.

### Lawns

Raise the cutting blades of your mower to reduce stress on the summer lawn – if cut too short, lawns will dry out more quickly.

Water in dry weather and apply fast acting lawn food – water in well immediately after application.

### Second thoughts

Installing an in-ground watering system with a digital timer saves water and makes watering easy.

## Focus on growing cucumbers

Providing they receive plenty of heat and moisture, cucumbers are quick and easy to grow. Fresh, light and tasty, they are the perfect ingredient to throw into your summer salads, dip with tzatziki, thinly slice for sandwiches or to incorporate in raita, chutneys and pickles, producing fruit for months on end.

Although generally prepared and eaten as a vegetable, they are scientifically classified as fruit (having an enclosed seed and developing from a flower), much like tomatoes and squash.

Cucumbers are frost-tender members of the gourd family and should be sown under cover and planted out in a sunny spot when the threat of frost has passed (glasshouse conditions are perfect providing good ventilation is available – high humidity will encourage pests and diseases, so remember to open vents or doors often).

Prepare ground well by digging in plenty of compost, old mushroom compost or well-rotted manure. Space plants at least 50cm x 60cm apart, or alternatively they can be trained up netting, trellis or a similar support structure, to save space and keep the fruit clean. Tie young stems to a wire support and eventually the tendrils will cling to the wire.

Cucumbers require plenty of water and need to be grown rapidly – they are also gross feeders and enjoy regular

applications of fertiliser. Harvest begins 60-75 days after sowing, and regular picking will encourage new flowers and fruit. Failure to set fruit is often due to cold weather or the absence of pollinators such as bees.

The fruit comes in two different varieties, the white round (apple cucumbers) and the long, green varieties.

Classic telegraph types like Yates 'Long Green' can grow up to half a metre long, but the plant takes 10 weeks to bear fruit after transplanting, and you need to peel the tough, bitter skin.

The seed-less 'Diva F1,' from Kings Seeds looks like a regular salad cucumber, but has a much smoother, thin, no-peel skin, and 'Green Dragon', also from Kings Seeds, is a long, sweet, smooth fruit, quick to form on the plant.

I like the shorter sweet-flavoured Lebanese type, which are mild tasting and low in acid. They can be eaten skin and all, and the fruit is a more manageable size – it means you won't end up with a fridge full of softening bits of half-eaten stumps.

'Crystal Apple' cucumbers are cute and round with a sweet, crisp taste, but if you want a "burp-less" variety try the vigorous Yates variety 'Burpless,' a nutty-flavoured, refreshing, non-bitter fruit, low in the cucurbitacin compound that causes 'cucumber burps,' or the thin-skinned 'Long White Wonder' from Kings Seeds.

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# the Ōtaki Mail

BY VIVIENNE BAILEY  
[viv.bailey@xtra.co.nz](mailto:viv.bailey@xtra.co.nz)

## Festive cheer in a pot

A native of Mexico and Central America, poinsettias, *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, widely known as Crown of the Andes, are one of our most popular potted plants. Their bright red blooms appear over Christmas and the summer holiday period, making this brilliantly coloured, subtropical plant forever synonymous with the festive season. They'll bring a splash of colour to your home décor long after the excitement of Santa has passed (newer cultivars are longer lasting in contrast to many available a few years ago).

Poinsettias belong to the Euphorbiaceae group and like other members of the family, the plant exudes a milky sap when stems are cut or damaged – it is best to avoid skin contact as the sap can cause irritation in some.

Many varieties of poinsettias are available, with variegated foliage and bloom ranging from creamy-white to lemon, cream, pink and peach. However, what appear to be the



plant's petals are in fact a bunch of upper leaves (bracts). The flowers are small, green or yellow and grow inconspicuously in the centre of each leaf bunch.

Although an indoor

plant they can be planted outdoors in a warm, frost-free spot but will need a loving touch – light, warmth and water, but not too much of the latter. As indoor plants they need exposure to morning sun and shade during the hotter part of the day.

Once the first blooming period of your potted poinsettia is over, it should be transplanted into a bigger pot (plants tend to be sold in small pots), and after repotting will need plenty of rest to get used to its new soil. Place in a warm, bright spot, but not directly in the sun. Give just enough water so as not to dry out and fertilise six to nine weeks after repotting. Your plant probably won't need repotting again for two to three years.

If you decide to transplant outside, you'll need to do a bit of preparation (choose a location in full sun for most of the day but no light at night – avoid areas illuminated by streetlights). Keep your plant inside during the winter months, water sparingly and don't fertilise during this time. When the weather warms up, cut off any faded leaves, leaving behind the spiky stems. Place your potted poinsettia outdoors for two to three weeks to allow plant to acclimatise to both light and temperature.

Dig a hole in your garden bed that allows the poinsettia to sit at the same level as it did in the pot, place plant in the hole and firm soil around base. Apply a two-inch-thick layer of mulch around the base to help it retain water. Water thoroughly and fertilise regularly – monthly is ideal.



## Our Kiwi symbol of Christmas

The profusion of nectar-filled, scarlet blossoms of pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) are a long-established part of our festive Christmas tradition. You'll find their iconic crimson features adorning greeting cards throughout the country – a widely recognised and important symbol for both New Zealanders at home and further afield.

Described variously by pioneers as "Antipodean holly," and "Settlers' Christmas Tree," the pohutukawa was spectacular enough to replace holly as a symbol of regeneration and rebirth. Our first settlers used pohutukawa blossom to decorate their homes at Christmas time and it was they who originally called it the Christmas tree. Of course, it had the added advantage in this hemisphere of perfect timing – flowering just before Christmas and continuing well into January.

Although the tree's natural coastal habitat extends from North Cape to Poverty Bay on the eastern side of New Zealand, and Urenui on the west, pohutukawa have been found growing inland on the shores of Lake Taupo, and given space and a warm position, these treasures make grand garden trees.

An obvious first choice as a front-line seaside plant where strong, salt-laden winds prevail (pohutukawa is Maori terminology for 'drenched with spray'), or inland gardens, the tree is amazingly adaptable. It likes a well-drained soil, anything from sandy to heavy clay, and is happy in either sun or light shade (some species are frost tender and will need shelter in cold positions).

Young plants need mulching in autumn and spring until established, and an application of a balanced general-purpose fertiliser in spring and midsummer.

Pohutukawa generally branch heavily from ground level, but careful staking and pruning can encourage a single trunk with a rounded head (trees can withstand severe pruning if necessary). Old, overgrown pohutukawa will regenerate rapidly if cut back hard in spring.

*M. excelsa* will, in time, become large, spreading, and dome-like but under garden conditions rarely exceeds 10x5m/33x16ft. It can be pruned as hedges, screens or left as a specimen. Varieties include 'Aurea,' a sulphur-yellow flowered form with a tidy growth habit and the bonus of blooming at an early age, and 'Pink Lady,' a selected cultivar with upright to rounded, smaller growing shape, and neat flower heads of light, carmine-pink. In a smaller

garden, opt for the dwarf Pacific Island variety 'Tahiti' or the compact, upright, free flowering 'Vibrance' which takes 10 years to reach 4-5m tall. These varieties bloom in late winter/spring so you won't get your Christmas buzz however you will have the benefit of bright spectacular colour at what can be a dreary time of the year.



# A wander through the 2023 Kāpiti Coast Art Trail

BY VIVIENNE BAILEY

The recent Kāpiti Coast Art Trail had a fresh, vibrant atmosphere as more than 23 new and emerging artists joined old established favourites such as Ōtaki potter and educator Rod Graham, painter Sonia Savage and potter Paula Archibald. The innovative mix provided a variety of art forms including paintings, prints, photography, sculpture, woodturning, jewellery and weaving with first-time exhibitors such as mixed-media artist Sarah Lange creating vibrant acrylic-resin artworks, and Louie Zalk-Neale – a ti kouka weaver and performance artist – presenting wearable taonga, sculptures and drawings.

“This year we had more than 125 local artists working in studios and shared places. When that is added to our 13 galleries, it means more than 300 artists represented across the district,” says mayor, Janet Holborow.

Feedback from artists and visitors was positive, with many saying it was busier than last year – although it tended to be the smaller pieces visitors were buying.

“The smaller artworks were the most popular,” says Sarah at the Rata Street Studio. “Perhaps reflecting our economic times.” However, she was happy with visitor numbers, “around 90 people visited the studio on the first weekend, and probably about 70 the second, all interested in the use of acrylic resin.”

With artists working in a huge range of different media – oils, acrylics, watercolour, ceramics, metal, fibre and textiles, glass, wood, resin – there was something to interest every visitor.



above: An example of Lindsey Hey’s expressionist artwork, Ōtaki



below: Jos Smith in her art studio, surrounded by her artworks, Ōtaki



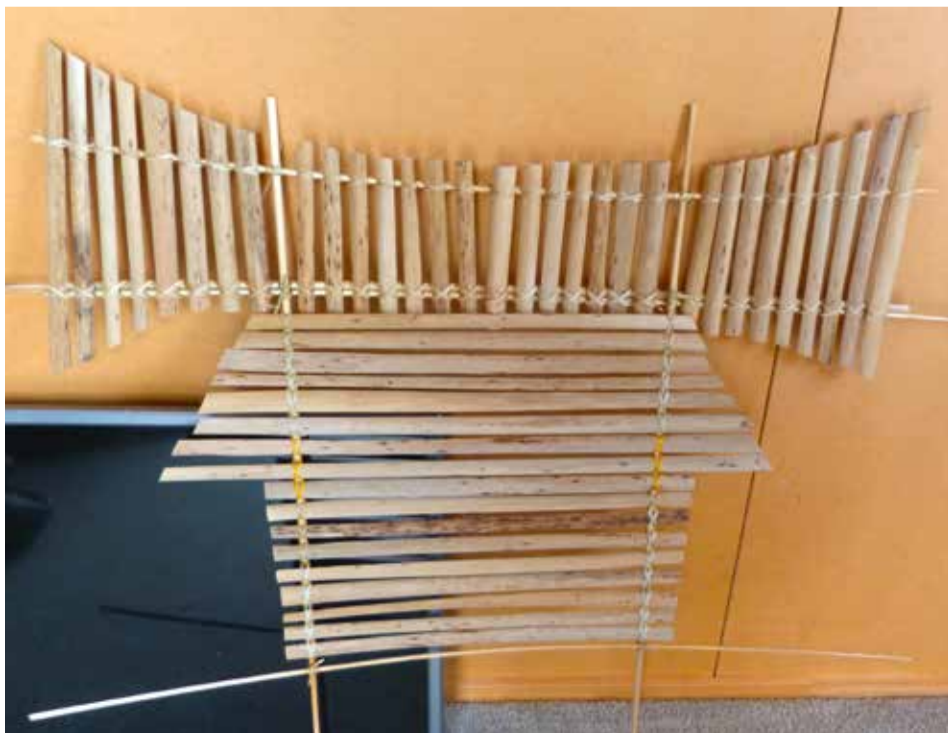
below: Neil Hey master potter, Ōtaki



below: Sarah Lange beside her acrylic-resin artwork, Rata Street Studio, Ōtaki



below: sculpture at Louie Zalk-Neale, Ōtaki



below: Oamaru limestone sculpture at Keno Sculpture, Ōtaki Beach



# Ōtaki College News

December 2023

[www.otakicollege.school.nz](http://www.otakicollege.school.nz)



## From the Principal

I am thrilled to acknowledge the recent Sports and Senior Prize-givings and the amazing number of awards and scholarships that continue to show a keen willingness by our students to be fully engaged in the academic and wider school life of the College. A huge thank-you to all those people who attended and I hopefully may see a number of you at our Junior Prize-givings which will be held on Tuesday 12 December: Year 9&10 at 10.00am; and Year 7&8 at 1.00pm.

My thanks to you all for the support that you have offered the College throughout 2023.

I look forward to seeing many of you back again in 2024, which I hope, fingers crossed, will bring no further surprises to us. In order that you start your preparations for the New Year, please see our key dates and, in closing, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Andy Fraser, Principal

## Senior and Sports Prize-givings

Sincere thanks to Pounamu MacKay, guest speaker at Sports Prize-giving, and to Constable Lucy Fleming who was our keynote speaker at Senior Prize-giving this year. It is always exciting to have past students pick up this opportunity to share ideas and thoughts with our students that will help them transition successfully into their own future lives and careers.

### Sports Blues were awarded to:

Giorgio Bevan, Louis Bevan, Finn Butler, Witana Cameron, William Fogden and Jericho Housiaux-Roderique for Canoe Polo; Caleb Smith for Waka Ama; and Stella Park for Waka Ama and Taekwondo.

### Joint Top Scholars in Year 12:

Louis Bevan and JT Byrne

### 1st in Year 11:

Yilin Lyu

### 2nd in Year 11:

Harriet Georgetti

Our 2024 Ngā Ringa Whero (Heads of School Team) was announced at Prize-giving.

Our Ngā Kākākura (Head Students) in 2024 will be Maddie Simpson and Witana Cameron.

Their team of Kaingārahu (Associate Heads) will be Wyeth Andrews, Louis Bevan, Ihnia Graham and Rosie Thomsen.

## RŌAR Attainment

Ōtaki College has a rewards system whereby students who consistently demonstrate their commitment to our four core values: Respect | Whakaute, Ōtaki College Pride | Rangatira Te Tū, Active Learning | Ākongā kamakama and Responsibility | Kawenga, (RŌAR), are awarded recognitions. A student who receives 50 recognitions in a year receives a Principal's Award. Congratulations to the following students who have attained Principal's Awards in 2023:

Leo Ngan | Te Maia Edwards-Steel  
Scott Eastwood | Pearl Glanville Hall  
Lucy Rasmussen | Lachlan Byrne  
Ellie Maddaford-Wood | Maia Stratford  
Elsie OSullivan | Danielle Wong  
Joseph Putara-Rakete | Xavier Chamier  
Rylee Evans | Karlos Niu

Special congratulations go to Leo Ngan, who has received over 100 recognitions and is the recipient of a Principal's Gold Award. This is an outstanding achievement.

## Our top awards went to:



Dux: Hayley Boyer



Runner-Up to Dux: Karen



Everiss Scholarship: Caleb Smith & Hannah Thompson



Sportsperson of the Year: Stella Park



Chairperson's Award for All Round Excellence: Caleb Smith

## Key Start-Back Dates 2024

Wednesday 31 January  
11.00am-3.00pm

Any new enrolments from Years 7–13 who have not received a confirmation email or phone call before this date need to come in to the College and enrol. All Year Level Kaihautū (Deans) will be available at this time. Please come to the Main Office.

Thursday 1 February

a) Course Counselling for Years 11–13 in the College Hall. Appointment times will be emailed home in January.

b) 10.00am – 1.00pm: Year 7 and new Year 8 and 9 students please come to the College Library with your parent/caregiver to meet with your Homeroom or Kaiārahi Teacher and the Principal for a short visit. No uniform required.

Monday 5 February

Full school return (varying times according to Year Level – details will be advertised on our website) with Pōwhiri at 9.45am for new students and their whānau. New students should assemble on the tennis courts at 9.30am.

## Uniform

Uniform is sold through Marlan Trading, State Highway One, Ōtaki. Please contact Marlan Trading: 027 466 3317 for their Christmas and New Year opening hours.

There will be a *secondhand uniform day* on Wednesday 31 January 10.00am – 2.00pm. Eftpos available. Follow the signs from the Office Block.

## Office

The College Office will be open for Chromebook and stationery sales before College starts as follows:

Tue 23 Jan – Fri 2 Feb, 9.00am – 12.00pm midday and 1.00pm – 3.00pm (closed for lunch from 12.00–1.00pm).

From Mon 5 Feb, normal office hours will resume: 8.30am – 4.00pm

Please check our website in January - [otakicollege.school.nz](http://otakicollege.school.nz) – for confirmation of these dates and times.

## Manukura GPS Foodbank Fundraiser – Your Chance to Give a Little

Manukura GPS, a leadership group from Ōtaki College has decided to organize a special event to fundraise for the Ōtaki Foodbank. This fundraiser will provide for those in need with the current cost of living constantly rising yearly. They are putting on an event called Manukura-opoly (Their take on the classic game Monopoly). They are hoping to fundraise as much water, food, and money as they can to help the food bank help other people.

The Manukura-opoly will be held at Ōtaki College on the 8th of December from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm. There will be food, entertainment, and more. You can also pay for them to either get a power-up or you can pay for them to demote their current position.

If you would like to donate but cannot make it to the event you can go to their fundraising page at [givealittle.co.nz](http://givealittle.co.nz):

<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/fundraiser-for-the-otaki-food-bank-manukura-gps>



## Homestay Families for International Students 2024

Ōtaki College is currently allocating International students to homestay families for 2024. Next year we are expecting students from Brazil, Japan and Europe. Homestays range from one Term right through to a full year. Expenses are covered. If you or someone you know have a spare room and are interested in finding out more about joining our growing list of host families, please get in touch with Andre Kneepkens (email: [akk@otakicollege.school.nz](mailto:akk@otakicollege.school.nz)) or contact the school office.

## Out and about with Shell

BY SHELLY WARWICK – ŌTAKI WARD COUNCILLOR

On 28 October I had the pleasure of spending some time with Kirsten Housiaux collecting for Breast Cancer outside New World in Ōtaki. As you can see in the photo, we dressed up in our most-pink to promote a good cause. As I have always found in Ōtaki, locals are very generous: we are a little town with a big heart, and many of you were very supportive.

Thank you to Kirsten who has coordinated the collection for seven years now and does a fantastic job with a big smile and a lot of laughter. People like you, Kirsten, make a big difference to many.

There are many changes coming to town with the revocation work. Revocation is actually the process of Waka Kotahi handing back the old SH1 to the District Council, and the preparation works that precede this are what we will experience over the next few years. Currently, south of the Railway, there is work being done on creating the Shared Pathway. Road management is very “interesting”, to say the least, with a very narrow north-bound lane.

We would like to hear from you if there are issues around these works, so we can feed this back to Waka Kotahi. You can contact myself or any of the Ōtaki Community

Board members if you feel there are issues that need to be addressed as to the works progress.

Here is the link to find us <https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/your-council/elected-members/community-board-members/otaki-community-board-member>

Unfortunately, there will be more disruption going forward with the work on the Clip-On that will be attached to the Old SH1 bridge early in the new year. This is a necessary evil as we get the remaining infrastructure in place to complete the PP2Ō project and finalise safe access into Ōtaki for cycling and walking. We need to all be patient as the end result will be fantastic.

It would be great if we can support our local businesses this Christmas by buying local, from both the Railway and Ōtaki township areas, and encouraging our summer visitors to do the same. We want business to thrive in Ōtaki and so we must support them. As this is the last *Ōtaki Mail* issue before the end of the year, I hope you all have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mere Kirihimete kia koutou and, although it is not the official Māori New Year, Ngā Mihi o te Tau Hou

Shelly



## The unwanted trail of rubber on Ōtaki streets

BY JACKIE ELLIOTT

When writing an editorial for the public it's always safe to choose a subject where 100% will agree with the point. Today it is a topic that I already know the public are clearly divided on. This is an issue of public safety in Ōtaki that affects all residents and the issue is the near constant actions of drivers, driving illegally and erratically in our streets with aim to make as much noise as possible, drop as much rubber as possible by wheel spinning and creating enough rubber-burning smoke to make a really cool photo to share on social media. Burnouts.

As a member of the Ōtaki Community Board, who have recently hosted a safety symposium and been waist-deep in issues of Ōtaki public safety for the past year, yes, this is a community safety issue I'm going to write about.

After Halloween I posted photos of the type of local burn-out art that has been laid down in nearly every street in Ōtaki recently. I put it on a regional traffic-safety facebook site. I did it after watching two vehicles

skidding out of control down a quiet street at dusk, while terrified families were out trick-or-treating. I remain genuinely surprised no child was killed that night.

The response to the post was a significant 278 reactions and 168 comments before admin closed the comments due to abusive language and threats. Of the 278 reactions, 133 liked the post and 129 showed a laughing face, assuming that is mocking the post. This clearly illustrates a divisive issue.

So, let's go to the biggest arguments for drivers wanting to do burn-outs: the first was, there is nowhere for those who want to do burn-outs to do them legally on a specially built pad. In response, perhaps they could crowd fund for a suitable piece of land – well away from local households – and make it happen. I am at a loss to think why this has not already been done, but memorial burn-outs were held in Levin for many years on an industrial site every year. It is a pity they have stopped being held.

The second reason was that these burn-outs are a memorial, usually in the vicinity of a fatal accident and the site of flowers, ribbons and, often a painted lamp-post.

Here I tread even deeper into dangerous conversation and, at this point I will say, because I have to, that the opinions expressed in this piece are my personal opinions.

I joined my neighbors at the aftermath of a fatal accident in a residential Ōtaki street. Some neighbours had been amongst the first on the scene, bravely trying to help, do what they could for the victim before emergency services arrived. It was a very traumatic scene that I am sure none of us will ever forget. I am reminded our emergency services personnel deal with accident scenes like this every single day, on our behalf.

A few days later, mid afternoon, a large group of mourners in their cars held a gathering that blocked the street and did continuous burn-outs for near half an hour.,

Unfortunately, since then, these poor residents have had to put up with repeated sudden burn-out gatherings in the dead of the night. I struggle to think what on earth they have done to deserve this right outside their homes.

Council staff have since had to start closing the gates to the main Urupā to vehicles, because of the same repeats of really antisocial behavior and driving up at the gravesite. This was really sad for all those who come to grieve their loved ones who have mobility issues and just can't walk all the way in anymore.

I have photographed dozens of new burn-out sites in Ōtaki this week, most are outside peoples quiet homes. And I ask, in what way does this show any respect whatsoever for our elders, our young and the families in the Ōtaki community? It simply doesn't.

Don't expect us all to watch silently as those of you doing burn-outs ruin the town.





## Buzz Club helps replace hives lost in Cyclone Gabrielle

BY FRANK NEILL

The Buzz Club Ōtaki has been busy building hives to replace those lost by Hawke’s Bay beekeepers when Cyclone Gabriel devastated the area.

The storm resulted in beekeepers losing 178 hives, resulting in the death of the bees.

When Thomas Reisinger, Buzz Club Ōtaki’s secretary, heard about the massive loss he contacted Beekeepers Hawke’s Bay.

They requested 25 baby hives, one for each of their members.

“We thought we will give them one box each, so they can start a new colony,” Thomas says.

“It’s a nice thing to do.”

So he facilitated a “nucleus project” and 12 members of Buzz Club Ōtaki got busy making baby hives, with each of the 12 members making one or two hives.

A nucleus is a small beehive that comes with a honey frame, a pollen frame, three frames for brood and a queen bee.

The nuclei can then be transferred into a bigger hive.

Thomas delivered the first batch of hives about three weeks ago.

The President of Beekeepers Hawke’s Bay also came to the area to pick up hives, giving Thomas a chance to meet him.

Thomas then delivered another batch of small hives on 8 November.

The deliveries were “very much appreciated,” Thomas says. The “[Beekeepers Hawke’s Bay] are very, very happy.”

Thomas delivered the final eight small hives to Waipukurau on the morning of 28 November.

It was a night journey for him because, he says, “bees don’t transfer well during the day. It’s too hot for them.”

Buzz Club Ōtaki comprises beekeepers from Raumati South to Levin.

Formed in 2013, the club has steadily grown over the decade and now has more than 100 members.

It meets on the third Wednesday of every month at Waitohu School.

The monthly meetings are well attended and feature a guest speaker, with time to

share experiences, or ask advice, over a cup of tea or coffee and chocolate biscuit.

The club holds regular training days and workshops – everything from constructing hives and frames, to food-safety courses and breeding queens.

Club members can get information and contacts for buying hive components and nucleus colonies and they are also happy

to mentor newbees.

More information about the club is available on its website: <https://thebuzzclubotaki.wixsite.com/bees-and-beyond>.

**below: Thomas Reisinger with a small bee hive, like the 25 small hives club members have made and delivered to the Hawke’s Bay.**



## Ōtaki Community Board meeting report: Second Waitohu reservoir to be built

BY FRANK NEILL

A second Waitohu reservoir will be built for the Kāpiti Coast District Council, Council’s Ōtaki Growth Infrastructure Project Manager Peter Bollmann told the 7 November meeting of the Ōtaki Community Board.

One larger reservoir was currently being constructed and that will primarily serve the lower section of the town, while the second smaller reservoir will serve the Plateau area.

The Council has contracted Align NZ to investigate sites for the second reservoir.

Two successful community meetings were held with a small group of interested neighbours to develop a planting plan for the site of the first reservoir.

“We ran a half-page advertisement in the November issue of the *Ōtaki Mail* to let the community know about the environmental protection features on site and that earthworks have started,” Mr Bollman said.

“The contractor, Goodmans, has completed the topsoil strip of the access and reservoir site.

“There is a large topsoil stockpile on site that will remain for the duration of the project and Goodmans will now monitor dust as we get into the drier months.

“Trucks have been delivering a small amount of aggregate for the reservoir access. Once the access is complete, truck movements will increase in frequency to deliver aggregate that is required for other parts of the project.

“Traffic management measures will be installed shortly around the intersection of Te Manuao Road.

“Following the recent spell of rain, the site and all erosion- and sediment-control

measures were inspected and were working well and there was no untreated discharge from the site.

“Effectively, the environmental controls are in good working order and operating as designed. This should continue to protect the downstream water environment as the project progresses,” Mr Bollman said.

Lyll Payne and Phil McIntyre, representing the residents of Moy Place and Sue Avenue, also made a presentation at the meeting to update the Ōtaki Community Board on developments relating to a proposed 183-lot subdivision.

The address of the proposed subdivision is 33 Main Highway, but the developer plans to provide access via Moy Place and Sue Avenue.

The developers have applied to the Environmental Protection Agency for the subdivision and the agency has appointed a panel to consider it.

The Board has written to the panel asking to have input into the application.

The main reason he was providing the Board an update was to “make sure that the topic was still in the front of everyone’s mind and on the table,” Mr Payne said.

Community grants totalling \$2,556 were allocated to four applicants at the meeting. Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki was granted \$756 to buy an PA system so that it can provide music for Ōtaki Vibe and to buy a trestle table to place the PA system on.

Friends of the Ōtaki Foodbank was granted \$300 to assist with the cost of printing and distributing promotional material for its annual collection appeal.

Padder Tennis New Zealand was granted \$750 to purchase tennis equipment for the Padder Tennis events it will hold at Ōtaki Beach from December 2023 to February 2024.

Ōtaki swimmer Kokoro Frost was granted \$750 to assist with the cost of competing in swimming events at the 2023 Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands November.



The Ōtaki Community Board covers an area that includes from Te Horo Beach Road and School Road in the south to Forest Lakes and the Waitohu Stream and Ōtaki River watersheds in the north, and the Tararua Range watershed in the east. The Board has been working on the Greater Ōtaki project, which has seen major changes for the community of Ōtaki.

The Ōtaki Community Board administers three grants; the Community Grant, the Sporting Activity Grant, and the Building and Resource Consent Grant.

Find out about the Ōtaki Community Board grants and application process via: [www.kapiticoast.govt.nz](http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz)

## Quiet time for Fire Brigade

BY FRANK NEILL

Unlike some other fire brigades, the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade had a quiet Guy Fawkes.

It received only one call related to fireworks, and that was not on Guy Fawkes Day itself.

The brigade was called after a skyrocket got lodged in a tree, and was rapidly dealt with. It was a minor call, Ōtaki’s Chief Fire Officer Ian King said.

The month to 22 November had been very quiet.

That followed a quiet period for the brigade in October, when it responded to just 14 calls.

During the month, the brigade attended one property fire, and private fire alarms activating resulted in one call.

There were five calls to rubbish, grass or scrub fires; two medical call outs; and two “good intent” calls. A “good intent” call is where callers report an emergency, but when the brigade arrives it finds that it is not.

The brigade attended one “special services” call. Special services are events not fitting the above categories, such as helicopter landings and electrical lines being down.

The brigade also assisted neighbouring brigades twice in October. In one of these calls, two trucks from Ōtaki were sent to a house fire on Kuku Beach Road.



## Arts, Books Corner

### *His Favourite Graves*, by Paul Cleave

REVIEWED BY ANN CHAPMAN

For those readers who like a gritty murder mystery, Paul Cleave's latest is a cracker.

The story has many voices: US Sheriff Cohan; his son Nathan; janitor Simon; and high-school student Lucas Connor.

Sheriff Cohen's life is falling apart. His father has dementia and has moved into Cohen's home after he burned the retirement home down. His wife soon moves out and then Cohen discovers his son Nathan is the school bully.

The story covers the tortuous father-son relationships of Cohen and Nathan, Cohen and his own father, and Lucas and his alcoholic father.

When Nathan locks Lucas in a school locker all their lives fall apart. The aftermath of that simple act from a bully has dramatic influences for all the key players. Lucas is released from the locker by the janitor who then promptly abducts him.

The sheriff has many aims: to win his wife back; to re-house his father; and to get himself out of financial woes by finding

Lucas and claiming the reward money. He thinks it's simple, an easy way to get his life back together by becoming the hero.

But the picture is bigger and more deadly than he realises. His decisions along the way lead to fatal consequences. And he discovers that somehow his son is involved. And still the body count rises, and the sheriff finds himself with a moral dilemma.

This is a fast-paced story, gory with physiological undertones and some unexpected twists and turns. Make sure you have the lights on, and that someone else is in the house with you when you read this edge-of-your-seat thriller.

Paul Cleave is one of New Zealand's most prolific crime writers. Christchurch born and raised; he still lives there where he writes full time. The *Ōtaki Mail* has reviewed another of his books, *The Quiet People*.

*His Favourite Graves* is available from Books & Co, Main Highway, Ōtaki. Published by Upstart Press, \$38.



### *Snorkelling the Abyss*, by Jan Jordan

REVIEWED BY ANN CHAPMAN

Memoirs can be tricky things to write. What to put in? What to leave out? Who would I hurt? What will people think of me, and do I care anyway? Is it good enough? Am I interesting enough? Will people buy it, read it?

This memoir by Jan Jordan is a no-holds-barred account of a very troubled but vivid life – a life well-travelled in spite of mental issues, which hounded Jan throughout her life.

Jan is a survivor, as her book attests to the barriers she faced throughout her life. From an unhappy childhood with unemotional, restrained parents who made no effort to understand their only child; to troubled self-hating teens; and to an adulthood that still held the remnants of self-loathing and insecurities of childhood.

Jan spent her childhood loathing herself and her body. Was she clever enough? Did she matter? And the book is the story of how she overcame those feelings of self-doubt, the many attempts at suicide by cutting or overdosing. How she relied on her inner strength and the help of friends to her final metamorphosis and a life with meaning.

She identifies in stark detail her journey towards a solution and acceptance of herself and her body. Her attempts to get close to people and have a loving relationship, while being marred by the non-loving childhood she had, are well drawn. She is helped by her job as a social worker, and her key role in transforming rape culture and gender inequalities in Aotearoa. As the book cover says, 'It is a powerful story that affirms the importance of connection and the imperative of speaking out.'

Jan has now retired to Waikawa Beach after becoming a successful academic and advocate for survivors of sexual violence. She became the first woman criminology lecturer at Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University, eventually being appointed as a professor. She retired from teaching in 2020 and was honoured with the title of professor emerita. She now researches how women's lives and the justice system interact.

*Snorkelling The Abyss* is available from Books & Co, Main Highway, Ōtaki. Published by Cuba Press, \$35.



## Art symposium celebrates record success and premier status in Ōtaki

'Thought becomes reality' is at the heart of the annual art symposium, Whakaaro Whakairo, as organisers aimed to establish this event as a premier arts extravaganza in Ōtaki. The recent shift of its timing to November, aligning with the annual Kāpiti Art Trail, has proven to be a game-changer for the symposium.

Whare Akuhata, an organiser, attributes much of this year's outstanding success to this strategic move. "Hopefully, we've elevated Whakaaro Whakairo to become a premier art event for Ōtaki. This year we had a greater number of artists, an expanded array of artworks, increased sales, and a surge in public attendance. It's a significant milestone."

Central to this achievement was the appointment of Events Manager Pip Devonshire. Leveraging her extensive network, Devonshire brought in a high-calibre roster of artists, encompassing stone-and wood-carvers, weavers, painters, and potters. The event featured over 35 artists across nine days, seamlessly integrated within the two-weekend Kapiti Art Trail. Creative New Zealand's substantial sponsorship further bolstered the event.

While local talent thrived, artists travelled from distant locales such as Waiuku, Taranaki, Rotorua, Motueka and Christchurch to participate. Te Wānanga o Raukawa contributed significantly with their weavers and artists, adding depth and diversity to the event's artistic spectrum.

Moving the venue to the Ōtaki Māori Racing Club proved to be a strategic decision. Its indoor facilities accommodated weavers, painters, and various artists while providing ample outdoor space for the carvers, earning accolades from Whare: "The venue perfectly caters to our needs, offering both indoor and outdoor spaces – a fantastic fit for our diverse artists."

A crucial element of the symposium was the rangatahi art tutorials led by artist

Ronald Petley, focusing on the art of carving Oamaru limestone.

"We owe much of our success to the generous support of our sponsors, including Te Rōpū Pakihi – the Kāpiti-Horowhenua Māori Business Network, Kelly & Co Real Estate, The Telegraph Hotel, Concrete Doctors, and Ohau Wines," highlighted Whare.

The event commenced with an opening karakia at the Ōtaki River mouth, attended by Mayor Janet Holborow. She later showcased her musical talent with a stone sculpture crafted by Davey McGee.

Whare expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support from the District Council and looks forward to even grander achievements next year, already securing the same venue for the forthcoming event.

For further details, visit the official Facebook page:

@whakaarowhakairo.

For more information check out the Facebook site:

@whakaarowhakairo.

**right: Davey McGee with his captivating, tactile and melodic stone sculpture**

source: Te Korowai Manaaki Charitable Trust



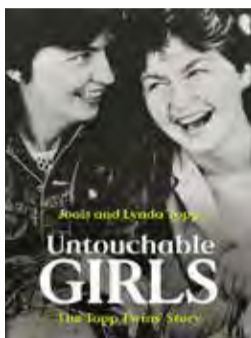


# Ngā Arotakenga Mai i Te Whare Whakamatau o Ōtaki



Book Reviews from Ōtaki Library

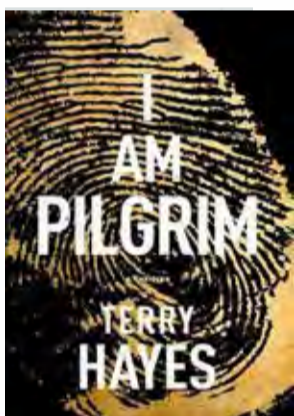
## Untouchable girls, by the Topp Twins



The Topp Twins memoir is a wonderful read, with exactly what you'd expect in the way of honesty, humour and protest. It is also heart-wrenching, as the twins deal with their cancer diagnoses and treatment. If you've been alive in the last 50 years, you'll recognise the history they've lived through and been part of.

You can read this on Libby or as a physical book.

## I am pilgrim, by Terry Hayes



"This is the best thriller I have ever read" is what a staff member had to say about this book. Although it is not new, it is still very popular within our SMART Libraries. A book that you do not want to put down, it is a fast-paced CIA/FBI, edge of your seat type thriller - from New York to Afghanistan! Terry Hayes has recently released his much anticipated follow-up novel - "The Year of The Locust," which will be available in the Library shortly.

## Christmas table, by The Australian Women's Weekly



It's that time of year again! While it has recipes for everything you would expect at Christmas, this book also provides a 'modern approach' to the season's fare and ways to help you celebrate in style. If you have more specific requirements in a recipe book (or are like me with a vegan daughter, or might be 'on salads'), our collection of recipe books will cater to any situation!

## The new library app



Tō wharepukapuka, kei a koe te tikanga – your library, your way.

The Kāpiti Libraries app gives you instant access to your library record, our programmes, newest items, e-resources, and much more. You can even borrow items using it. Come in and ask us about it.

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## ŌTAKI HERITAGE

Te Whare Pouhere Taonga o Ōtaki

### ŌTAKI IN THE NEWS ~ 1903

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

#### January 8

Mr D. M. Yeats, who has been headmaster of the Otaki State school for the past twelve years, and has now been transferred to the Lower Hutt, was yesterday presented by the Otaki residents with a purse of sovereigns. The presentation was made at a garden party held in the beautiful grounds of the Anglican parsonage. Mr W. H. Simcox made the presentation, and the ladies provided afternoon tea.

#### January 20

Mr T. King's fruiterer's shop was burglariously entered on Saturday or Sunday, and some pounds in silver extracted from the till. Mr King was ill at the Otaki Hospital at the time. The thief gained access to the shop by breaking the locks on the doors. There is no clue to the suspect.

#### February 3

Last week Mr W. Webber, of Otaki, and Mr Lethbridge, of Turakina, had a successful day's fishing in the Mangaroa stream near Te Horo. They secured 60 trout, varying in weight from 2lb downwards.

#### February 28

The site definitely fixed for the new post office at Otaki is that known as the "clock site" at the end of Mill Road, the main street. There is a clock tower which was placed there to the memory of Mrs McWilliam, wife of the Rev. J. McWilliam, and the clock is to be removed from the tower and fixed in the new post office.

#### March 7

In Waihoanga, Otaki, a settler has on his property an enormous standing rata tree, which six feet above the ground measures over 36ft in girth, and 11ft 6in through.

#### March 13

The Native College at Otaki was destroyed by fire last night, only a small portion of the furniture being saved. It was an historical building, erected by the Church Mission fifty years ago, and fairly well endowed.

#### March 14

By the destruction of the college buildings, Otaki loses one of its best known landmarks, for the place was constructed nearly sixty years ago by the Native Mission under Bishop Hadfield's instruction. The building was a very large two-storied one, probably the largest between Wellington and Palmerston North and comprised a splendid and capacious schoolroom, and a very large dormitory, in addition to living-rooms for the teachers. Although such an old structure, its timbers were perfectly sound, the whole place having been built of first-class heart of totara. In its early days the college accommodated some hundreds of native children who were sent there from all parts of the district for education, but of late years little interest being taken in the institution, less than a dozen children have been receiving education there. The destruction of the college will be a great loss to the Native Mission.

#### March 18

The Post gives this extract from Constable O'Rourke's report on the fire which destroyed the Otaki Native College :- "The fire must have been purely accidental, and caused by a smouldering match or the usual rat. I have seen dozens of full boxes of matches in the lining of houses being repaired in Otaki, and other matches chewed up in rats' nests, with reels of cotton, etc."

#### March 25

At the meeting of the Hospital Board on Friday, the question of enlarging the Otaki Hospital was again brought up.

The chairman (Mr J. P. Luke), after reading the estimates for the year, said the Otaki Hospital had been a great benefit to the district, but the cost of maintenance was exceptionally high. It was highly desirable that an accident hospital should be established, but he considered it his duty, as chairman, to point out the difference in the cost per patient at the Wellington and Otaki institutions. At the former the daily average cost per patient was 4s 5d, which was reduced to 3s 6 1/2d when patients' payments were deducted. At Otaki the average daily cost was 15s, or 13s 10d, if payments by patients were deducted. This was a big difference, and he considered it was a great pity that the Otaki institution had been looked upon as a hospital pure and simple. Chronic or virulent cases should be sent down to Wellington, and the average cost of maintenance would thereby be greatly reduced.

#### April 1

At a large and enthusiastic meeting at Otaki on Thursday night it was decided to erect a building for a public library and reading-room. It was stated that the Government would probably give a site free of cost and that subsidies would also be available from the Government and the County Council. The sum of £30 was promised in the room. A strong committee was set up to carry out the proposal and raise funds. Mr Ben Ling was elected chairman and Mr Smith, hon. Secretary.

#### April 22

To-day, at 2.30 o'clock, at the Town Hall, Otaki, Messrs Macdonal, Wilson and Co., under instructions from Mr E. Tudor Atkinson will submit to auction his very valuable and highly improved estate, known as "Otaki Suburban," consisting of some 200 acres, which, has been subdivided into 52 sections, comprising 15 sections of one acre each, 8 sections two to three acres each, 9 sections of three to four acres each, 6 sections of four to five acres each, 6 sections of five acres each, 4 sections of six to seven acres each, and the balance

from seven acres to twenty-one acre each. To those in search of sections for small farms, market gardens, orchards, poultry farms, residential purposes, etc., a wide choice in area is here offered. Most of the sections front the main county road and the Rahui road, a couple of minutes' walk from the Otaki Railway Station. The terms of sale have been fixed on a most liberal scale, viz., 10 per cent. deposit, 10 per cent. in three months, 10 per cent. in twelve months, and the balance can remain for a term of years at 5 per cent. interest. It is anticipated from the large amount of interest centred in the sale, both locally and in the Otaki district, that there will be keen competition for the sections. Full details of the sale appear in the auction column. Plans can be had on application to the firm. Intending buyers may proceed to Otaki either at 7.25 a.m. or 9.55 a.m. The last-named train reaches Otaki at 1 p.m.

#### June 4

Yesterday the winter meeting of the Otaki Maori Racing Club opened with beautiful weather. The attendance was the largest ever seen on the course, close on 3000 persons being present. Good fields and good racing was the order of the day. During the afternoon the Otaki Maori Band played selections on the lawn. The catering was in the hands of Messrs Langley Bros., and the spread they provided was up to their usual high standard. The sum of £9260 was put through the machines, as against £6202 for the corresponding day last year.

#### July 18

A very successful ping-pong tournament was held at Otaki on Wednesday last, with the object of assisting the library and reading-room funds. The game has made rapid strides in Otaki, and some excellent play was witnessed. A very large number of competitors took part, and some "tough battles" worked the excitement of the onlookers up to fever heat. Eventually, Mr E. Whitehorn was beaten by Mr Henry Rawiri, the latter winning both the gentlemen's handicap and open challenge in great form.

## FIFA Women's World Cup 'leftovers' happily received

BY MARGARET ANDREWS

The FIFA Women's World Cup tournament is well and truly over, but what happened to all "the stuff" left at all the regional accommodation and training venues used by the competing teams?

It was all given away to various charity organisations in each region. Kāpiti Rotary was approached to see if they could assist in the "useful" disposal of the masses of chairs, tables, cabinets, chest freezers, rolls of carpet, TV stands, hanging racks, stationery, laminators and more – thousands of dollars' worth. Kāpiti Rotary president Vic Hewson worked tirelessly to see a huge amount was distributed to within Kāpiti; this included Ōtaki, where Ōtaki Foodbank, Ōtaki College and Te Horo Hall got plenty.

"What a privilege to be involved in this huge gifting to the community," Marilyn Stevens, President Ōtaki Rotary, said. "To think all the stuff used during the tournament has gone out to the communities. We had to find a warehouse to store everything until it was given away."

Ōtaki College received tables and chairs – both computer and desk chairs – TV stands and lockers, all of which were put to good use in the college.

Vic Hewson contacted the College, saying he had the opportunity to distribute all goods to community organisations and asked whether the College would be interested.

"Answer, an emphatic, YES!" Principal Andy Fraser said. "Everything has been put to use in the college and has saved us several thousand dollars. To replace that furniture – classroom tables cost \$400 each. This significant amount of money can be dispersed into property or curriculum funding. The College is indebted to Kāpiti Rotary for their assistance and ongoing support for Otaki College."

The Foodbank received rolls of carpet, computer chairs, tables, cabinets and stationery; while the Te Horo Hall, which is also a Civil Defence Hub, received tables and chairs, whiteboards, cabinets, clipboards and a laminator – all necessary for hall use and in an emergency event.

The four FIFA match regions – Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Dunedin, as well as the Australian regions – all had the same 'leftover' items and the task of disposing all the furnishings and sports equipment, with the stipulation that "It could not be sold." So charities and communities around New Zealand have benefitted from the distribution of all these goods.

"A huge personal thanks to Rotary and all the individual members for the amazing job they do in our community," a thrilled Andy Fraser said.

"And congratulations to everyone who made the event such a success for New Zealand – it was AMAZING for our economy and such a feel-good thing," said Marilyn Stevens.

For more information on what Rotary does in your community and how you can be involved contact:

marilyn.rotary9940@gmail.com

below from left to right: Ōtaki Rotary President Marilyn Stevens, Ōtaki Foodbank Manager Lucy Tahere, Wayne Stevens and committee member Don Howden with some of the "goodies" the Foodbank received.



# Media Muse

By Manakau's Tom Frewen

“Stop calling us Kiwis!” is just one of several angry epithets – and the only that’s fit to print – that I shout at the so-called television news in the Shouting Hour between 6pm and 7pm before we switch to BBC News or Al Jazeera to find out what’s really going on overseas.

Shouting at the television was recently banned in our house by the Higher Authority (HA). Did I want to eat dinner outside on the verandah? Or did I want to shut up?

“They can’t hear you. Do you not realise that?”

Obviously, I was not getting through to them. Night after night the same mistakes, the same stupidity, the same mawkish banalities, clichés and bloopers; the news, as one thing after another sliced into vox pops, sound bites, breaking news, someone gone missing, someone murdered, car crash there, flooding here, drought somewhere else, Israel and Palestine at each other again, Biden and Trump, Rishi and Boris, Taylor Swift “devastated” after death of one fan in heatwave before concert in Brazil, coalition negotiations drag on.

Is shouting at the television a mental health issue? What about shouting at the radio? Had I tried that? Yes, with some limited success. It took a couple of years, but Kim Hill finally got the message. The darling of the woke feminist boomer sisterhood – glued to the radio on Saturday mornings to hear her slay their dragons – says she’s retiring to spend more time with her family. Where have we heard that one before?

(Hill’s Saturday morning show attracted 311,800 listeners in the first quarter of 2022, the last time RNZ published her ratings. Since then RNZ has failed to disclose audience figures for its shows, despite

requests first lodged under the Official Information Act in July 2022 and under investigation by the Ombudsman since March 2023.)

In a fawning farewell to Hill in *North & South* magazine, a writer with the unlikely name of Hera Lindsay Bird says that as far as she’s concerned “there’s no further use for Saturday mornings.” Sad! Lady, there’s more to life than Kim Hill and Pilates. Give mud-wrestling a go, start a home-security business and spy on your neighbours, or do what I did and take up shouting.

As female broadcasters go, Hill doesn’t even make my top 10. Aunt Daisy, now there was a real star: a vital personality and natural communicator who made full use of radio’s intimacy as a medium to make each listener feel she was talking directly to them. Maud Basham, her real name, was on air at 9am – “Good morning! Good morning! Good morning, everybody” – from the late 1930s until shortly before her death in 1963. Among wise gems in her little book, ‘Good Morning Thoughts from Aunt Daisy’s Scrapbook’, there is an Arab proverb with good advice for anyone thinking of lashing out on social media: “While the word is yet unspoken, you are master of it. When once it is spoken, it is master of you.”

The beauty of shouting at the radio is that it’s portable. You can take it into the garden and shout at it there. Unlike television, you don’t have to look at it. You can have the radio on, be shouting at it and at the same time be doing something else with your hands – three things.

Shouting at TV3’s Patrick Gower would be easier if he were on the radio. I simply cannot bear to look at him. It’s his teeth:

when he smiles he looks like a parking meter crossed with the radiator grill of an Austin Metropolitan.

He recently flew to London on the taxpayer dollar to find out if New Zealand should become a republic. According to *TV Guide* he sat down – journalists’ employment contracts stipulate that all interviews longer than a minute and a half must be done sitting down or at least crouching – with “aristocrat, royal biographer and former ‘I’m A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here’ contestant Lady Colin Campbell. Colin?”

“She lives in a massive castle and she talked with an extremely posh voice,” Gower told *TV Guide*’s impressionable Sarah Nealon. “She was as close to royalty as we could get.” Possibly on a tight travel budget, he didn’t get to Madam Tussauds wax museum but he did “spend time with a paparazzi photographer who hopes to snap pictures of certain royals.” Back in New Zealand he interviewed a woman who threw eggs at Queen Elizabeth II during her 1986 visit. At the cost of some \$250,000 to the New Zealand taxpayer courtesy of NZ on Air, Gower decided on the basis of his exhaustive research that he’d “be gutted” if New Zealand didn’t become a republic in his lifetime.

In dumbing down its content to reach the maximum audience for advertisers, our commercial television channels seem to have overshot the mark; Gower is clearly way below the lowest common denominator.

The election campaign and its aftermath revealed our mainstream media, led by the television channels with their combined nightly audience of around 800,000, to be pushing a narrative that they would like to see happen.

During the campaign, mainstream media revealed their bias in two ways – for the Māori Party (Te Pati Māori) and against the New Zealand First Party and its leader Winston Peters.

The bias towards the Māori Party was most evident in RNZ’s campaign coverage and commentary, the amount of exposure given by RNZ to the party, its candidates and co-leaders well out of proportion to their 3% share of the party vote. The bias against Mr Peters was graphically apparent in the demonisation of him by Stuff’s cartoonists, and in the belief expressed in editorials and commentary in all media that National and ACT should be allowed to govern alone – not together, note, alone – without the pesky Mr Peters and his destabilising populist policies.

Voters put an end to that by giving New Zealand First six per cent of their party vote, forcing media to follow his advice and “do the math.” With Māori Party candidates winning six of the seven Māori seats, pushing the total number of MPs to 123 and raising the required majority in the House to 62, National and ACT with a combined total of 59 seats had no option but to invite New Zealand First to join them on the Treasury benches.

Mr Peters then became the main focus of the small army of political reporters as they trailed after him through airports, fashioning their headlines and video footage out of his steadfast refusal to answer their silly questions.

He had already answered the one question that should have been of the greatest interest to them: his choice of minister for the broadcasting and media portfolio.

“Is that a threat?” TVNZ’s Jack Tame asked him after Mr Peters revealed on the Q+A programme on Sunday 1 October, two weeks before polling day, that he wanted the broadcasting portfolio and, therefore, political control of TVNZ, RNZ and Māori television and radio stations and networks.

“No, it’s a promise” was the New Zealand First leader’s reply and, given his long and acrimonious feud with TVNZ and the media in general, it’s one that he’s likely to keep.



above: the Ōtaki College Level 1 Science class making good use of the new tables and chairs in one of the science rooms, courtesy of FIFA

below: more tables and chairs for the students at Ōtaki College, leftover from the FIFA tournament in August this year





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### *Meri Kirihimete*

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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
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<b>Community</b>		<b>Funeral Directors</b>	
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Bridge	021 885 514	Kāpiti Coast Funeral	04 298 5168
Budgeting	06 364 6579	Waikanae Funeral	04 293 6844
Citizens Advice	06 364 8664	<b>Funeral Celebrant</b>	
Cobwebs	021 160 2710	Annie Christie	06 364 0042
Community Club	06 364 8754	<b>Insurance</b>	
Community Patrol	027 230 8836	Inpro	06 364 6123
Energise Ōtaki	027 4443015	<b>Nurseries</b>	
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	<b>Kāpiti Coast District Council</b>	
Mainly Music	06 364 7099	General Inquiries	06 364 9301
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Poetry in Ōtaki (PIO)	021 977 834	Simco Lawyers	06 364 7285
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For Hadfield Hall bookings, email [office@otakianglican.nz](mailto:office@otakianglican.nz)

**Ōtaki Rangiatea Church**  
33–37 Te Rauparaha St  
Sunday Eucharist: 9am  
Church viewing hours, school terms:  
Mon–Fri, 9.30am – 1.30pm  
Tel: 364 6838  
Email: [rangiataea.church@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rangiataea.church@xtra.co.nz)

**Waikanae Whakarongotai Marae**  
2nd Sunday, 11.30am

**Levin Ngatokowaru Marae**  
4th Sunday, 11am

**CATHOLIC**  
**Ōtaki St Mary's 'Pukekaraka'**  
4 Convent Road  
Fr. Alan Roberts  
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Tel: 364 8540  
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# ŌSLSC: Surf racing and volunteer firefighters' practise



BY SHELLY WARWICK

On the 11 November, two Ōtaki Surf Lifesaving Club Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) teams were part of the Central Region Surf Lifesaving Tangimoana Cup competition. This is a long-haul IRB race, that runs approximately 38km, starting in Foxton, heading north to Himatangi, then Tangimoana, and then back again.

Crews comprise three lifeguards in each IRB with a beach-support crew. The object of the race is to drive the IRBs parallel to the beach in the surf break and stop at different points along the beach where the competitors must land on the beach and get tags for completing different tasks.

The tasks include: carrying the IRB around markers – and they are around 100kg with the motor and fuel bladder in them; running up sand dunes. ; removing the motor and carrying it to a point to collect a marker; and refueling the bladder. It is a grueling race that tests the teams' fitness and strength, and the drivers' and crews' skill in the IRBs. One of our teams came third and the other team came fifth this year, which is a huge achievement.

Surf Club volunteers also were the volunteer first-aiders this year for the Big Bang Adventure Race in Queen Elizabeth Park, utilising their training to support local events.

On the 20 November our volunteer lifeguards teamed up with the Ōtaki and Te Horo Volunteer Fire Brigade crews to practice river-rescues as part of the firefighter training. Surf club lifeguards were the patients for the firefighters to practice rescues on.

This is a great example of our volunteer emergency services collaborating and supporting each other. We are very lucky in our little communities of Ōtaki and Te Horo to have these volunteer groups who are there in our times of need. Thank you to all those who give up their time to make our town a safer place.

The Ōtaki Surf Club volunteers will be patrolling the beaches this summer to help keep us safe. The weekend patrols are purely voluntary. If you get the chance to say 'Hi', please do. These volunteers have been training throughout winter to be fit enough to qualify as lifeguards and rookies, preparing for months to be at the service of our community.

The Ōtaki Surf Club runs programmes for children from the age of seven – which is the Nippers programme – right through to training rookies to become lifeguards.

They are a very friendly club, encouraging the whole family to join and become involved.

If you'd like more information please go to: [otakisurfclub.co.nz](http://otakisurfclub.co.nz)

Merry Christmas. See you in the surf!

*images supplied*



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