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November 2023

Waitohu School celebrates 60 years

BY FRANK NEILL



above: Long-serving Waitohu School teachers Mrs Alison Moore (left) and Mrs Shelly Matheson cutting the school's 60th anniversary cake

Waitohu School celebrated its 60th anniversary with a special school assembly, also attended by former pupils, on 20 October.

Among those attending were two long-serving teachers, Mrs Shelly Matheson and Mrs Alison Moore, along with four foundation pupils: Max Lutz, Colin Cudby, Graeme Harper and Ian Carson.

One of the highlights of the special assembly was the screening of videos: one taken on the day the school opened in 1963; and one about the history of Waitohu School.

The current pupils performed a haka and sang, as did the school's choir. Principal Maine Curtis, the Year 5 & 6 teacher Matua Kahura Cameron, and one of the school's students, Hunter Pritchard, gave speeches in te reo Māori.

The 60th anniversary celebration "is really only happening because Max [Lutz] rang me and said: 'What are you doing [for it]?',” Mr Curtis said.

Max also gave a brief speech.

"I am so proud of Waitohu School today," he

said. "On my first day of school it was absolutely wonderful.

"We all prospered because of our time at Waitohu School, because it was a great place to be."

As well as celebrating Waitohu School's 60th anniversary, the school also acknowledged Mr Curtis being in his 20th year as the school's Tumuaki (Principal).

The assembly concluded with Mrs Matheson and Mrs Moore cutting the school's 60th birthday cake.

Waitohu School opened on 5 February 1963.

It was established because of the rapidly increasing roll at Ōtaki School and the Wellington Education Board had been looking for a site for a new school.

After considering both Ōtaki Beach and the railway area, the Education Board chose the inland option.

At that time new homes were being built in the plateau area, particularly on Te Manuao and Freemans Roads.

Vic Cottle, the ward member for the Wellington Education Board, played a key role in securing four acres of land and a school residence in Te Manuao Road.

Four classrooms were built and the school opened with a roll of 88 pupils, taught by the first four teachers.

Arthur Manz, then Principal, taught Forms 1 and 2; Graeme Moss taught Standards 3 and 4; Shirley Hoskins taught Standards 1 and 2; and Noeline Reichenbach taught the junior school.

By the end of the year the roll had increased to 128 pupils.

"The enthusiasm shown by residents in the community for 'their' new school was quite remarkable," Mr Manz wrote for the school's 50th Jubilee.

"Gifts ranged from a sewing machine to sets of football jerseys, an electric school bell, tennis nets, climbing bars and goal posts.

"Transportation of children in cars, helping in classrooms, mothers having senior girls home learning sewing, making Milo in the winter months, working bees etc, assisted to maintain the school atmosphere, and quality of such a high standard."

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Local sports
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New MP for Ōtaki Tim Costley thanks you

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported me, encouraged me, invited me into their workplace, their home and their community groups.

Most importantly, a huge thank you to everyone who put their faith in me and gave me the privilege of representing us all over the next three years as our local MP.

It's a huge honour, and the strong support at this year's election was truly humbling.

It's been a whirlwind few days since the election: on Sunday I was straight down to Wellington for the first of three weeks of induction training.

I snuck up the road to attend the Horowhenua-Kāpiti 2023 Electra Business

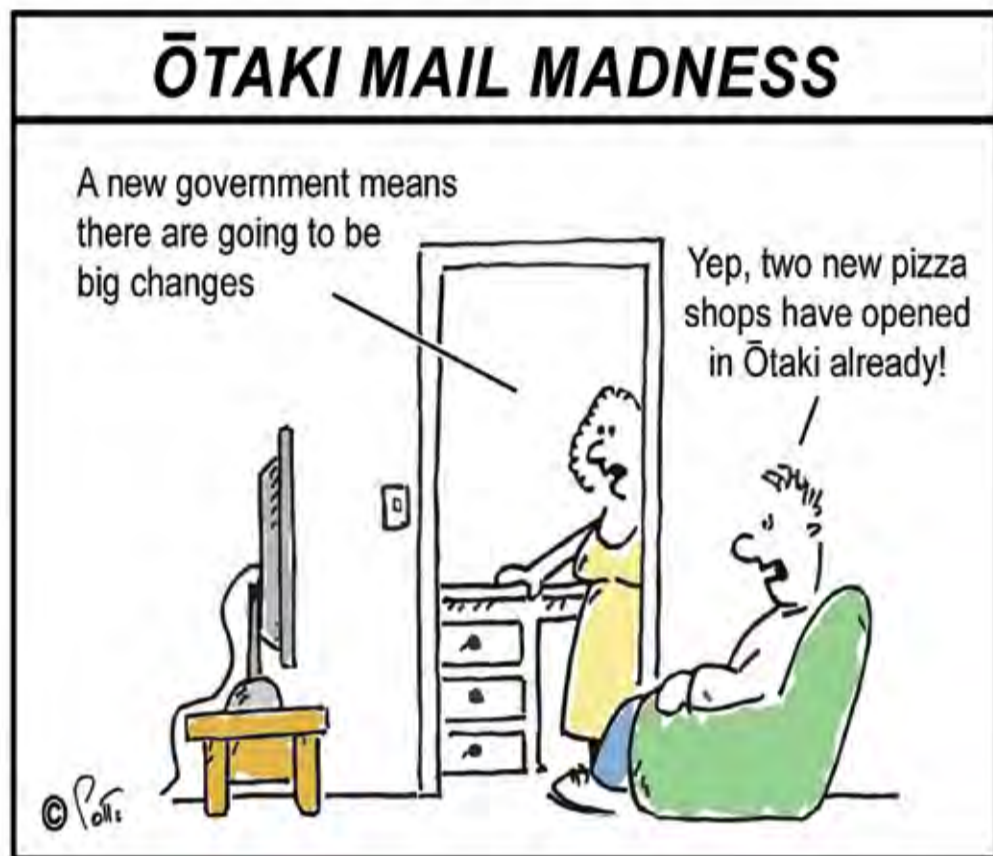
Awards on Thursday night, celebrating our amazing local businesses here, and I've also been out and about this weekend, including watching the All Blacks at the Ōtaki RSA.

I'll spend the next two weeks finishing my induction, and hope to be sworn in mid-November at which point I officially become your new MP.

After that I'll set up an office locally, and finally be able to spend my time serving you all.

Thank you once again for the strong support, and please say hi as you see me out and about in our beautiful part of the country.

Tim



Paying tax on profits from property sales

Sponsored content

BY FLEUR HOBSON

If you own a property and plan to sell it, you may or may not have to pay tax related to the increase in what you receive for the property compared to what you paid for it. Not every seller has to pay tax however, only those who are defined under what is known as the "bright-line test" will have to make a payment.

While New Zealand does not have a capital-gains tax as such, the bright-line test means that some people will actually be paying what is a capital-gains tax.

The bright-line test is applied to people who sell their property quickly and make a gain on the sale.

Currently, people who bought after 27 March 2021 may, under the bright-line test, have to pay tax if they sell their property within 10 years.

For properties bought between 29 March 2018 and 27 March 2021, the bright-line test is applied within five years of sale.

For any properties bought before 28 March 2018, the bright-line test does not apply.

These timeframes may change, however. During the 2023 National Election campaign, the National Party announced that it planned to change the bright-line test to two years for all properties.

The bright-line test only applies to residential property. It does not apply to commercial property or farmland.

It also doesn't generally apply to people's main home, relationship property or inherited property, although the rules around these situations are quite complex. Just how much tax people will need to pay

under the bright-line test will be calculated on their marginal-income tax rate on all earnings, including capital gains.

The new highest tax rate of 39% came into effect on 1 April 2021. This 39% rate applies when annual income, including applicable capital gains, exceeds \$180,000.

For example, if you bought a property and sold it 18 months later, making a capital gain of \$300,000, your tax rate on the gain would be 39% and you would need to pay \$117,000 tax.

If your earnings are below \$180,000 your tax under the bright-line test will be lower.

The provisions around the bright-line test are very complex, and this can lead to unexpected tax outcomes for people when they sell property.

Just one example of this is that when you sell the main home that you live in you generally do not have to pay tax.

However, you may have to pay tax if you have a "regular pattern" of buying and selling your main home.

You may also have to pay some tax when you gift property to your children, such as gifting it at the price you bought the property, despite the fact that the property

has increased in value – although there are some exceptions to this also.

Because the provisions around the bright line-test are so complex, it is highly recommended that you get advice from a good lawyer and accountant if you are considering selling property.

Hobson Mills Law would be only too happy to provide you quality advice and to help you generally. Contact Fleur, Susie or Freya at Hobson Mills Law, 364 7190, 282 Mill Road – opposite Farmlands.

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Ōtaki Bike Space: Repair and Give-away

BY MARGARET ANDREWS

And she's away! Three-year-old Lucy Engels is off on her first attempt to ride a "proper" bike at the Ōtaki Bike Space event held at Ōtaki College on 21 October.

Lucy and her big sister Ruby went with their dad, Pieter Engels, to the Ōtaki Bike Space Repair Day to get some adjustments made to the bigger bike for Ruby and to the smaller one for Lucy. With only a few

adjustments made, both girls were soon pedalling around on their bikes.

The combined Bike Repair Day and Bike Give-away was very successful with 52 bikes given away and 26 bikes repaired. A number of people brought in bikes they no longer used and swapped for an alternative, or donated to Ōtaki Bike Space, which is

another of Energise Otaki's successful projects. So popular is the Bike Give-away that all bikes were gone within the first 25 minutes of the 10am opening.

Among the bike mechanics was John Poppleton who came up from the Porirua Green Bike Trust, where he has been involved for 30 years. "I love the work. I'm

a volunteer today" he said. He brought the Trust's van with a number of bike parts, nuts & bolts, and other necessities to help with the repairs.

This was the first time the group had held both the Bike Repair and Bike Give-away together.



right:
Lucy Engels, aged three, is off first time peddling her "new" bike after a push from dad



left:
John Poppleton from the Porirua Green Bike Trust, tightens the nuts on the rear axle, for a keen young cyclist, Grayson Goldsmith and his dad Graeme Goldsmith



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BY VIVIENNE BAILEY

The Kilns at Te Horo

The art, cultural and historical centre, The Kilns at Te Horo, has been granted a Category 2 Heritage status by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga. This ranking includes the site, the relocated Smíšek beehive kilns, and the old, defunct Te Horo Railway Station.

Work undertaken by Sparrow Construction at the Te Horo site is nearing completion, and The Mirek Smíšek Arts Trust have plans for a December 2023 opening date.

“Waka Kotahi is confident work will be finished and the site handed over with sufficient time to allow The Mirek Smíšek Arts Trust to transform the area into ‘The Kilns at Te Horo’ by the beginning of December this year,” says Trust chair, Tony Hartevelt.

Sweden-based, mixed-media artist Adrienne Riseley has been chosen as the first resident potter at the multicultural art space. She will take up residency in November 2023, moving into the restored and upgraded railway station with her

husband, Fredrik Randers.

Adrienne originates from Lower Hutt and believes Mirek Smíšek’s destiny and hers are similar.

“An upheaval from one’s home of birth to a land far away and a passion for clay that stretches over decades unites us.”

A finalist for the Portage Ceramic Awards in 2005 and 2006, Adrienne has had solo exhibitions and work included in exhibitions in Wellington, The Dowse Gallery, Lower Hutt, Auckland and at leading galleries in Sweden, Finland and Baltimore, USA.

For the last fifteen years Adrienne has been a teacher at Kulturskola arts school, creating art with a range of materials including clay.

An assessor of applicants for the Te Horo residency, Auckland-based Peter Lange says he was impressed by Adrienne’s huge range of techniques and processes when working with clay.

“Adrienne is clearly not afraid to use original ideas and technical inventions, and her sculptural works are convincing and

Christmas Twilight Drinks & Nibbles at Te Horo Hall

- Live music will be provided by The Pretty Boys and The Brooklyns plus
- there’ll be carol singing with Kāpiti Brass Band

Enjoy a sausage sizzle, Mr Whippy and more!
Everyone’s invited: bring the children
use the tennis courts & lawn area for games
sing and dance into the night!

Just bring something to drink and some nibbles to share.
Friday 1st December, from 5.30pm

accomplished. Her teaching skills and ability to encourage community involvement are ideal for this position.”

For further information check www.thekilnsattehoro.co.nz; or contact Tony Hartevelt, Chair, The Mirek Smíšek Arts Trust 021 449 690; or Adrienne Riseley adi.riseley@gmail.com



Christmas Twilight Drinks and Nibbles

A Christmas celebration is planned for the community’s December 2023 Drinks and Nibbles. Live music will be provided by The Pretty Boys and The Brooklyns and you’ll be able to sing along with the Kāpiti Brass Band and their selection of Christmas carols and enjoy a sausage sizzle. Mr. Whippy will also be paying a visit.

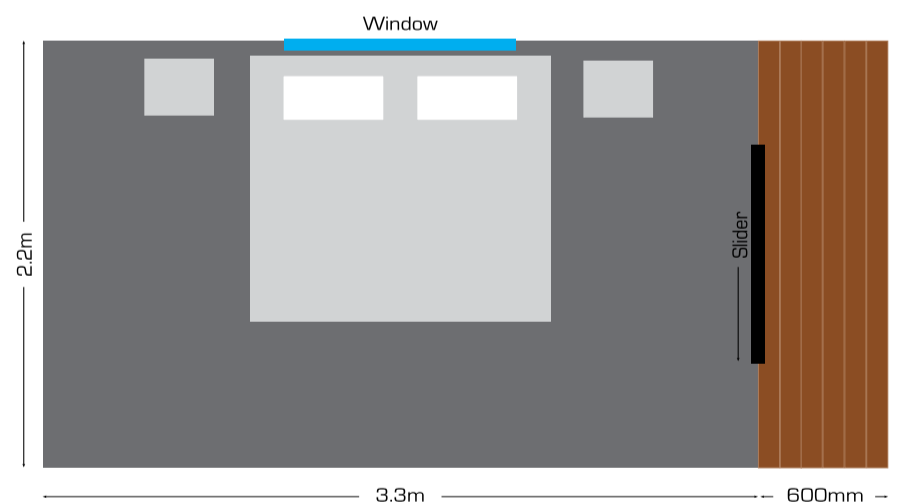
Everyone is welcome: bring the children and use the tennis courts and lawn area for games, singing and dancing. Just remember something to drink and a plate of nibbles to share. Friday, 1 December from 5.30pm at Te Horo Hall.

November Drinks and Nibbles

Take advantage of daylight saving (and warming temperatures) and join friends and neighbours at Te Horo’s monthly social get together at Te Horo Hall. Bring your favourite drink and some nibbles to share – 3 November 5.30pm.

left: Adrienne Riseley, inaugural resident at The Kilns from November

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Metlink’s route 290 to reservice Te Horo and Peka Peka

Route 290 passengers will soon be able to board and alight services in Te Horo and Peka Peka following approval from Waka Kotahi to install interim bus stops on Peka Peka Link Road and the old State Highway (SH1) near the old School Road junction.

Scheduled for completion on 12 November, the stops will enable Route 290 buses to stop on the old SH1 once more. Services on SH1 were discontinued in 2015 when high volumes of traffic deemed the bus stops unsafe.

Metlink Group Manager Samantha Gain says the Council was told to wait for the Kāpiti Expressway to open, whereby traffic volumes would reduce enough to re-establish bus stops.

“While Metlink has been running buses on the expressway since it opened in December 2022, we’ve been working with Waka Kotahi and Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC) to gain the approvals needed to install temporary stops along the previous route,” Ms Gain says.

“We’ve been advised that permanent stops won’t be completed until 2024. We understand and appreciate the frustration felt by the local community, who’ve been

waiting patiently for their bus service to return.

“Metlink always intended to reintroduce stops in Te Horo and Peka Peka and officers have worked hard with all parties to ensure these temporary stops are in place for passengers,” Ms Gain says.

Key to this work is the transfer of the road to KCDC, known as ‘revocation’. Waka Kotahi must also be happy that the road maintains the same function and meets the safety standards of other local, redesignated roads.

The stops, which will be marked with clear signage and provide a designated space for waiting passengers, will allow Metlink to resume services, while the remainder of the revocation process is carried out.

Passengers are advised that Waka Kotahi are resurfacing a section of the road where the new stops will go. While due to finish on 9–10 November, customers will be updated if it affects the start date for route 290 services using the new stops.

An updated timetable for the route 290 bus will be available on the Metlink website and from timetable providers from 12 November.

Historic occasion as two heritage organisations unite

The Otaki Museum (formal name The Otaki Heritage Bank Preservation Trust) and the Otaki Historical Society recently joined forces in a new organisation Ōtaki Heritage – Te Whare Pouhere Taonga o Ōtaki. The organisation was launched by Rāwiri Rikihana of Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki at a well-attended event at the museum. Mayor Janet Holborrow also spoke.

Since its creation in 2003, the museum has presented a wide range of exhibitions featuring aspects of Ōtaki’s history. It holds an extensive collection of objects, photos and documents relating to our history, which are available to anyone interested. The Historical Society has been an important part of Ōtaki life since 1977. Having worked closely together over the years, the two organisations have now combined in order to tell Ōtaki’s stories more effectively.

The latest volume of the long-running Ōtaki Historical Journal was also launched. It

covers an interesting variety of topics, beginning with the archaeology of the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway, which uncovered Ngāi Tara artefacts from the 1500s. There are also articles about the soldier settlement farms at Te Horo after World War 1, an entrepreneur in the early 20th century, and the development of the Sunny Ōtaki brand name.

The new journals will be on sale at these local outlets: Ōtaki Museum, Ōtaki Post Shop and Books & Co. They’re also available through our website www.otakiheritage.org.nz or Google Ōtaki Heritage. Price: \$20 (plus \$5 postage within Aotearoa New Zealand). Earlier journals are also available.

For more information, contact Judith Miller or Sarah Maclean admin@otakimuseum.co.nz



ŌTAKI HERITAGE Te Whare Pouhere Taonga o Ōtaki



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Have your say on safeguarding Wellington’s fresh and coastal waters

Measures to maintain and enhance Wellington waterbodies are among proposed changes to Greater Wellington’s Natural Resources Plan (NRP) unanimously supported by regional councillors at yesterday’s council meeting.

NRP Change 1, which includes policies and rules to protect fresh and coastal waters, as well as Te Awarua-o-Porirua (Porirua Harbour) and Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington Harbour), will now move to public consultation.

Greater Wellington Chair Daran Ponter says the proposed changes would strengthen the role of Council and mana whenua as kaitiaki, ensuring water and land use is managed sustainably.

“Wellingtonians want to swim and collect kai in their awa and moana. They want healthy wai, thriving ecosystems and a regional council committed to protecting te taiao.” Cr Ponter says.

“Following years of in-depth discussion with mana whenua and our communities, we’ve reached a key milestone today, in proposing significant changes that will safeguard our fresh and coastal waters by managing land-based activities that affect them.”

Development of Change 1 has been driven by the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) and mana whenua and community direction for improved water quality through Council’s Whaitua programmes. (WIPs).

“Implementation Programmes for Porirua and Wellington capture a holistic viewpoint, with valuable input from mana whenua, community and local councils on the work required to restore Te Mana o te Wai”, Cr Ponter says.

Te Upoko Taiao Chair and regional councillor David Lee acknowledges the vital role of the Whaitua Committee members and mana whenua have played throughout the community-led process.

“Greater Wellington wishes to acknowledge the mahi of our Whaitua Committee members and mana whenua, whose unwavering commitment and vast array of knowledge have been instrumental in setting these proposed freshwater standards.”

Under the NPS-FM, regional councils must introduce regulations that extend protection of freshwater, and non-regulatory measures like action plans to achieve water quality targets.

Greater Wellington Environment Committee Chair Penny Gaylor says NRP Change 1 aims to reduce the amount of contaminants being discharged to water bodies from activities like earthworks and urban development.

“It also recommends amendments to regional biodiversity schedules, to protect more of our precious native plants, animals and ecosystems, like the black coral colony recently identified on the Kāpiti Coast.”

Consultation on Change 1 to the National Resources Plan is open from 30 October until 15 December 2023.

Find out more about NRP Change 1 and the proposed changes to the NRP at Greater Wellington — Natural Resources Plan – 2023 changes (gw.govt.nz)



Taking Ōtaki's pulse

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

BY ANN CHAPMAN



October is always pink ribbon month for breast cancer awareness. Collectors are out on the streets on the last weekend raising funds for breast cancer research and to help those women and their families who have been diagnosed.

The money collected goes to research, education and support with a small amount used for administration.

If you miss the collectors you can always donate via their website at <https://www.breastcancerfoundation.org.nz>

Breast cancer mortality has dropped 43% over the last 23 years, thanks to the work of the foundation and its education programme.

The major component for saving lives is self-assessment – self-checking your own breasts. The foundation advises that there are three components for this:

1. **Touch.** Touch both breasts. Feel for any lumps or thickening of breast tissue including in your armpits.

2. **Look.** Stand in front of the mirror and look to see if you can see any physical changes to the shape of the breasts, skin or nipples.

3. **Check.** Go to your doctor to check any changes you see or feel, even if you've had a mammogram recently.

Breast cancer treatment can be difficult for the patient and the family. It is an emotional time. The Breast Cancer Foundation provides support for anyone who is undergoing treatment. Supporting the pink ribbon appeal is the perfect way to support the foundation towards its goal of zero deaths from breast cancer.

World Menopause Month

BY ANN CHAPMAN

October is also the month the world recognises menopause, a normal part of aging which is often subject to ridicule, jokes and no sympathy. Held every year on October 18th the purpose of the day is to raise awareness of this perfectly normal process and provide support options for improving health and wellbeing.

By holding a World Menopause Day and raising awareness it is hoped that the stigma associated with the condition is also diminished.

Commonly called 'the change of life', it marks the end of a woman's reproductive life, but not her life! The word "menopause" simply refers to the last or final menstrual period a woman experiences. It is the time when the ovaries stop producing oestrogen

and progesterone.

For many women it is the start of a new phase in life – one of freedom. Some women sail through it with very few or minimal symptoms. Others suffer from hot flushes and disturbed sleep.

There is a large tool-kit to help, from medical intervention with hormone replacement therapy to more natural solutions and lifestyle changes, which include a healthy diet. Incorporating exercise lowers risk for many health problems associated with ageing, gives you more energy, and improves quality of life. A healthy lifestyle may reduce menopausal symptoms including hot flushes and sleep disturbance.



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COVID-19 variant BA.2.86 detected in Aotearoa

The Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) has detected the COVID-19 subvariant BA.2.86 in Aotearoa New Zealand for the first time in wastewater samples taken in September.

The subvariant was first detected in late July in Denmark and Israel, and cases have been slowly increasing globally. It has not yet been detected in New Zealand in any people hospitalised with COVID-19.

BA.2.86 has been deemed a 'variant under monitoring' by the World Health Organization. However, there are no indications at this stage it is substantially more severe or infectious than other

subvariants circulating in our communities. Manatū Hauora – the Ministry of Health and ESR are carrying out surveillance on this and other subvariants and closely monitoring developments here and overseas, as well as emerging international evidence.

Preliminary evidence suggests that COVID-19 vaccines available in New Zealand remain effective against BA.2.86.

The detection of BA.2.86 is a good reminder that COVID-19 has not gone away so people are advised to continue to test if they are symptomatic, and stay home if they are sick. More advice is available on the Unite against COVID-19 webpage. *Source: Ministry of Health*

Classification change to low-dose medicinal cannabis products

Medsafe has taken a step towards easier access to one medicinal cannabis product by allowing access over the counter at pharmacies, though any approved products in this category are still some time away.

Medsafe has reclassified the medicinal cannabis product, cannabidiol (CBD), from a prescription-only medicine to a restricted (pharmacist-only) medicine, aligning our approach with Australia, which made a similar change in December 2020.

While no CBD products are currently approved in New Zealand, this change means that any low-dose CBD product which becomes approved in the future can be supplied by registered pharmacists to patients over 18 years. In general, these are products that would be used to treat minor ailments.

The decision follows careful consideration of the risk-benefit profile of low-dose CBD by Medsafe.

Those in the CBD industry have also

previously signalled that a change in classification may allow more opportunities for research into the clinical efficacy and safety of CBD. Subsequently, this could create greater opportunities for the approval of low-dose CBD medicines.

“ may allow more opportunities for research into the clinical efficacy and safety ”

Until now, the main route for supplying CBD in Aotearoa was as a medicinal cannabis product which was not approved by Medsafe but did meet the minimum quality standards of the Misuse of Drugs (Medicinal Cannabis) Regulations. This meant that it could only be accessed via a prescription from a registered medical practitioner (i.e. a doctor).

Source: Ministry of Health

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.

'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!

Zero Waste Ōtaki: Update

BY DAVE MACINTYRE

Zero Waste Ōtaki is going under cover – to help customers locate the timber they need for their DIY products more easily, and with protection from the elements.

Local companies Stresscrete and Mac Engineering have been very generous in donating old shelters, which have been re-erected on site.

The intention is for all timber that goes into the shelters to be de-nailed, cut square and labelled with its length before going onto the galvanised steel shelves given to us by Ōtaki Cold Storage

Extensive planning was needed to get the shelters relocated on the ZWŌ site next to the Ōtaki landfill, says committee member Graham Evans.

“The Mac Engineering team cut both shelters in half for transporting by road. They were re-welded together and placed into position by crane. Our volunteers then completed the job by erecting the shelving and sorting and stacking the wood.

“We really appreciate the generosity of Stresscrete and Mac Engineering in helping us.”

Already, since its inception at the start of 2022, about 70 tonnes of useable timber have been diverted from the landfill and bought by people at very affordable rates, to use on their projects at home.

In the last month for example, one woman

took away a hatchback full of thick wooden poles to create a coastal rockery garden.

A man found the wood he needed for a chicken coop; and another local took some timber to make a pergola.

One sad development is that our wooden shed has been broken into several times. The thief (or thieves) may not realise that all proceeds from our sales go back to the community, in grants and donations.

If anyone knows who the culprits are – or sees a wheelbarrow marked with ZWŌ lettering – please inform the police, who have been notified again, as have Envirowaste and Kāpiti Coast District Council.

The Ōtaki Memorial Hall Supper Room is booked for our AGM on Wednesday 29 November, with a 6.30pm start. Polly Griffiths from the Sustainability Trust will be our guest to talk about developments at the Otaihangā Land Transfer Station amongst other things. Members of the public are invited to come along and, if they wish, offer themselves as volunteers or committee members.

ZWŌ is open to the public every Wednesday 9.30 -10.30 am, on the last Sunday of the month from 9.00 – 12.00 and at other times by arrangement (phone 028 852 09936). To keep up to date with what's new see the ZWŌ Facebook page - www.facebook.com/groups/zerowasteotaki.nz



Energise Ōtaki: Better ‘business as usual’

BY EMILY MCDOWELL



We helped launch over 50 kids and adults into space last month: free bikes for better forward mobility! Ōtaki Bike Space delivered like a postie: direct, with no cost to the receiver (unless they gave koha) and with a stack of good messages (“biking instead of driving is better for us and the planet!”, “this bike’s for you, courtesy of a generous donor and volunteers who fixed it up right!”).

Then it was pedal to the metal to launch the Business Energy Service, in which our ‘techno-pro’ trustees now help ‘businesses’ (including schools, charities, etc.) realise their energy-efficiency dreams, for free.

That’s what Pavel Plotinnov [pictured below (right) with Black Sheep's Kate Waghorn] did for his successful 2022 application.

Pavel recently led one of two pilot workshops on building solar power units. By soldering onto ‘reclaimed’ windows and doors, participants at Black Sheep Animal Sanctuary made stand-alone panels that can power appliances, or even light small houses (while the sun shines).

Plotinnov hopes that by refining the workshop process, the team will be able to teach anyone to make our own safe power sources.



Like our solar farms, the Business Energy Service will be a way to make money to share across Ōtaki: once a business owner has a (free) plan and trade contacts, it can choose to employ Energise Ōtaki to project-manage the improvements. Or not. If yes, that fee becomes part of the Whakahiko Ōtaki Fund – which is now open for applications by 5 November. Applying is simple. There’s even an option to present your ‘energising’ project or idea in person rather than write it out.

Inspired, Energise Ōtaki is looking at how to repurpose dumped solar panels (which leach terribly in landfill) into smaller units to, say, power hot-water heating in tenanted houses.

The sun’s shining on Ōtaki Carbon Forests, too. This month, forestry and carbon-credit expert Chris Lively will be visiting the first eight landowners interested in planting native trees on their properties. Interested, too? Details on all these projects are at energiseotaki.nz



The Rongoā Space

BY JOANNE HAKARAIA

Rongoā of the Month

TE NGAHERE

The rongoā this month is about the ngahere (forest).

Entering the ngahere is like entering your soul, so reverence must be adhered to.

Entering is a soulful practise. The mind takes a backseat, and the heart leads the way. The more you enter, the more relaxed and tranquil the mind becomes. The ngahere makes it so easy to forget the past, because the mind is not present. The heart guides only in the present with inspiration to move forward. The silence can be challenging if you are new to this experience but, with practise, the silence becomes what you yearn for.

Stand at the entrance to the ngahere and offer a karakia (prayer) or waiata (song). Let your kaupapa or intention be known to the mauri of the ngahere. Wait for a tohu (sign) before you enter. Is it a manu, or a branch, or leaf waving in the wind? Is it a fly landing on your nose? You will know the tohu and the meaning behind it.

When you step inside, notice the temperature of the ngahere. Notice the light and sounds. Observe the rākau. The rākau will call to you and guide you. Pay homage to the manu that you hear. Acknowledge the whenua and all

those who walked before you. Be in awe of the holy ground that lies before you. Do your best to become one with the ngahere. Try not to disrupt the balance of the woven cloak laid down long before you came into being. There is no need to speak in here, unless it is to the ngahere.

Slow your pace down as much as possible. Sit, if you need to, to quiet your mind. Hang out with angiangi (hanging lichen) and watch how they drape over the rākau. Hongi the kohukohu (moss) and draw the mauri deep down into your belly. The mauri enlightening your body is 360 million years old. It knows stillness and silence. And even though you may not be able to see them honour the spiritual beings of light that make up this sacred sanctuary. To them you are an intruder and they will watch you closely. Are you going to disrupt the silence and reverie? Do they have to be on guard? Do they have to withdraw? A panui has gone out and spread throughout the ngahere through the underground network of fungi. The manu are observing you. This is why we send a karanga out before we enter and place a karakia at the entrance to announce that we have arrived. You will still be watched and it will be your actions that determine whether the ngahere guides and teaches you.

We can use the ngahere to still the

mind. The ngahere is a wonderful point of reference for how the mind can be still and peaceful yet vibrant like the ngahere – a great measuring tool to see how our peace of mind is. We are able to expand our consciousness to feel the balance and disturbances miles away. In fact, this is a way of being. People lived this way naturally, sustainably, working with the flora and fauna while maintaining balance.

He rongoā tēnei. This is rongoā. Rongoā for the wairua, tinana, hinengaro and whanau.

For the month of November I am giving away a guided meditation on Entering the Ngahere.

Go to our website www.rongoamauri.com, scroll down and click on the link. Add to cart and apply the coupon code MAURI



Energise Ōtaki's Business Energy Service launched

BY FRANK NEILL

Congratulations on establishing this excellent and valuable service, Kāpiti Mayor Janet Holborow said at the launch of Energy Ōtaki's Business Energy Service on 5 October.

The new service is free to local businesses, schools, NGOs and charities and will help them move towards more efficient and cleaner energy use. The new service will be available not only in Ōtaki but also extending out to Kāpiti and the Horowhenua.

It was launched at Ōtaki College at a ceremony attended by a series of high-profile community leaders. Prime Minister Chris Hipkins was originally scheduled to launch the service, but contracted Covid and had to isolate.

"Congratulations on making [the Business Energy Service] available to the whole of Kāpiti and the Horowhenua as well," the Mayor said. "I am certain this service will make a big contribution, not just to the businesses that use it but also to the whole community in the provision of sustainable energy."

MP for Mana and Minister for Economic Development Barbara Edmonds formally launched Energise Ōtaki's Business Energy Service.

"Energise Ōtaki is a prime example of what can be achieved when a community comes together," Ms Edmonds said. "Generating community-owned renewable energy and then selling the excess power back into the grid is an impressive achievement."

"I've also been informed that you then take it a step further, by using those funds to reinvest in Ōtaki, supporting community projects and those who call this place home," she said.

"Today's milestone is a testament to the work of Energise Ōtaki as we celebrate the launch of the Business Energy Service. Community-led organisations such as yourself have shown what can be achieved in this space and are an inspiration to others."

"I know that the success of your projects is no coincidence, and it is commendable that

the rest of your community can now benefit more directly from your experiences in this field," Ms Edmonds said.

Former MP for Ōtaki Teresa Ngobi also spoke at the launch.

"Everyone knows the work that you [Energise Ōtaki] do," she said. "I am just in awe of it ... and I encourage everyone to support your mahi."

Energise Ōtaki established the Business Energy Service to provide "real solutions that businesses can use in their operations," Energise Ōtaki Trustee Dr Gael Ferguson said at the launch.

"Our starting point is being available to local businesses." The organisation will do this by making advisors who "know their beans in terms of energy" available to help businesses – including NGOs and schools – become more energy efficient. Although energy may only be a small component of some businesses' operating costs, even small savings can assist the bottom line.

"Our focus is on helping to find simple, appropriate-scaled technologies and solutions, with an eye to affordable capital operating costs," Dr Ferguson said. "We hope that businesses use it and take

advantage of it. For us it is a chance to give back to our business community who have helped us over the years."

"We have always had the view that local businesses can benefit from energy efficiency and that it can create jobs as well," Energise Ōtaki's Chair Leigh Ramsey said. With the launch of the Business Energy Service "we want to give something back to the business community."

For more information about the Business Energy Service, or to sign up, visit: www.energiseotaki.nz/bes.

below: at the launch of Energise Ōtaki's Business Energy Service (from left) Energise Ōtaki Chair Leigh Ramsey, MP for Mana and Minister for Economic Development Barbara Edmonds and Energise Ōtaki Trustee Dr Gael Ferguson.



Ōtaki jewellery-maker and coin-designer Stevan Stojanovic

BY VIVIENNE BAILEY

Ōtaki-based Stevan Stojanovic isn't your usual designer and maker of jewellery. He combines this creative passion with designing and carving coins and has an immense pedigree in both art disciplines.

Born in Wellington, the son of New Zealand professional artist, Dragon Stojanovic, Stevan began his studies at the Academy of Fine Arts, Rome during the 1980s. He later transferred to the prestigious Academy of The Medal at the Italian State Mint where he spent two years specialising in sculpting and engraving coins and medallions, life-drawing and sculpture. The art classes were small, "intense, hands-on," as only 12 applications annually were accepted.

"One of my side studies at the Italian State

Mint was learning base-relief sculpture," he said. "It's quite a challenge, considered quite difficult. You need to have an observant nature."

During his time there (the early 1990s) Stevan was awarded commissions for four medals and commemorative plaques and took part in various world exhibitions including the World Expo Seville and the World Expo Kyoto.

Finishing his studies in Rome, Stevan worked in London for a further two years carving medallions, then it was back to Rome.

"Rome was a fascinating place to work," he said. "I was lucky to work with a master craftsman, a designer and goldsmith."



Stevan spent 14 years working with the well-known American artist, David Loepp in his workshop, crafting one-off pieces and often selling to "the rich and famous."

This was also a time of exhibiting in a range of venues both in Italy and New Zealand including Going Solo 17 at the Academy of Fine Arts in Wellington.

New Zealand called, and Stevan settled in Ōtaki with his extended family, opening a gallery and workshop in Te Horo beside what was then The Red House café. But an offer of work from the Royal Australian Mint saw him closing the business and leaving for Canberra where he ultimately spent six years designing and sculpting coins.

"It was an amazing organisation, an absolute privilege to design coins for a country," he explained. "So many different styles, an eclectic experience."

Amongst the many designs he created was an ANZAC coin, "an inspiring and humbling job."

Now back in Ōtaki again, Stevan has recently held a two-day wax-and-metal workshop where participants designed and made their own piece of jewellery, first in wax then finished in silver, "a unique something only they will have."

The workshops are organised for a maximum of three people, with day one creating a wax model, followed by day two of silver work and casting.

Stevan hopes to run further workshops and jewellery courses in the future, depending on demand. For further information about Stevan and his work, you'll find his gallery of art on Facebook and you can email stevstojanovic@gmail.com, or phone 022 529 3250.



Canoeists win gold and silver at AIMS Games

BY FRANK NEILL



Two Ōtaki students, Kieran Butler and Bailey-Rose Johns, came away with a gold medal and a silver medal at the recent Zespri AIMS Games.

Held in Tauranga, the AIMS Games saw intermediate schools from throughout the country compete in a series of sporting events.

Kieran and Bailey-Rose competed in both the canoe slalom and flat water canoe sprints.

Representing Te Horo School, Kieran won gold in the canoe slalom.

In this event all the competitors complete the slalom course and the fastest 16 then head into head-to-head eliminations.

Kieran clocked the fastest time of all the competitors in the year 7 boys slalom.

left: Bailey-Rose Johns (left) and Kieran Butler with their medals at the Zespri AIMS Games

His time was so fast it would have seen him in fifth place in the year 8 boys event.

Kieran then went on to win his next four races to remain unbeaten in the event.

In the race for the gold medal Kieran defeated Nikora Lomax from Murray's Bay Intermediate School in Auckland.

With his victory, Kieran exceeded the success recorded last year by his brother Finn who won the silver medal in the year 8 slalom.

Bailey-Rose, who was representing Ōtaki College, then won a silver medal as part of a year 7 team in the flat-water canoeing.

Bailey-Rose was the only representative from her school and was made part of a team of girls facing a similar scenario.

She also competed in the canoe slalom and qualified as one of the top 16.

She was leading her first head-to-head race when she went around one of the poles in the wrong direction and was eliminated, finishing ninth out of the 16 competitors.

Swimming

BY FRANK NEILL

The Ōtaki Titans Swimming Club held its first ever swim meet at the Coastlands Aquatic Centre on Saturday 28 October.

The very successful meet attracted 137 swimmers from as far north as the Hawkes Bay and as far south as Wellington.

The Heretaunga Sundevils Swimming Club, which trains at the Hawke's Bay Regional Aquatic Centre in Hastings, was the northernmost club to attend the Titans meet.

Swimmers at the event had the opportunity not only to compete but also to win spot prizes, thanks to the generosity of local businesses.

"We have had a variety of local businesses offer sponsorship in the way of goods and vouchers for us to use as spot-prizes on the night," the Ōtaki Titans Head Coach Seuga Frost says.

"Special thanks to the following local businesses: Bobbi's Hair Salon, Māoriland, Hamish Barham Pharmacy, Artel, Benjamin Hugh Hair Salon, Mowers Engineering Services and Gardner Homes; as well as neighbours from Porirua RYOS and Triple Treat.

"Running a meet involves a lot of volunteers who are officiating so we thank everyone who showed up to help in any way," Seuga says.

The next event for the Titans is the Gold Coast Zone meet at the Coastlands Aquatic Centre on 5 November, where the club has entered a number of swimmers competing for the first time.

The Titans will then swim in the All Stars Junior Festival at the Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre on 11 and 12 November.



Rāhui women the champions

BY FRANK NEILL

Rāhui are the 2023 Horowhenua-Kāpiti Women's Rugby Champions.

The Ōtaki team took out the title with a convincing 42-29 victory over Levin College Old Boys at the Levin Domain on 28 October.

This win meant that Rāhui completed the season unbeaten.

Early in the match it looked as though Rāhui may run up a big score, as they led 22-0 half-way through the first half.

However, Levin came back at them with three tries and the teams went into the half-time break with Rāhui leading 22-17.

Just as they did in the first half, Rāhui scored the first three tries in the second stanza, only to see Levin come back at them again with two tries.

However, when Kararaina Te Puni scored her hat-trick try it ensured Rāhui that they would win the title.

Co-Captain Kaia Pollock was in outstanding form at number eight, and was deservedly named Player of the Day by the Horowhenua-Kāpiti Rugby Football Union.

All the other team members also put in excellent performances.

Rāhui scored eight tries, with Kararaina picking up three, Jasmine Ratapu two and Manea Poa, Pounamu MacKay and Jade Paki picking up one each.

Pounamu kicked one conversion.

This year's victory saw Rāhui gain some revenge over Levin College Old Boys, who defeated them in last year's final of the women's competition.

Rāhui qualified for the final when they completely dominated Athletic in the semi-final, played at the Ōtaki Domain on 14 October.

The home team scored 16 tries and almost made a century when they won 98-0.

Louisa Donnell notched up a hat-trick of tries and four players – Pounamu, Te Ata Rikihana, Jasmine and Karaina – scored two tries each.

Wikiteria Doyle, Jade Paki, Kaia, Autumn Royal and Kahurangi Sturmey also scored tries.

Between them, Pounamu and Kahurangi kicked eight conversions.

top: Rāhui celebrating as they hold aloft the cup they won as the 2023 Horowhenua-Kāpiti Women's Rugby Champions

right: Jasmine Ratapu evades the Levin defenders on her way to scoring one of the two tries she notched up

left: Kararaina Te Puni on the way to scoring her hat-trick try

Cricketers win season opener

BY FRANK NEILL

The Ōtaki cricket team got their season off to a great start when they scored a 25-run victory over Waikanae at Waikanae Park on 2 October.

However they had to come from behind to win the match after Waikanae took out the points for the first innings with a lead of nine runs.

Playing in the Presidents division of the Horowhenua Kāpiti cricket competition, this first match followed a format called "T20 Test Match".

In this format each team bats and bowls for 20 overs an innings and two innings are played.

Ōtaki batted first and scored 99 runs for the loss of six wickets, only to see their total overhauled when Waikanae notched up 108 runs, again for the loss of six wickets.

Two bowlers shone for Ōtaki. Tim Donnell took three wickets and conceded 14 runs from his four overs. Fraser Imrie took one wicket but gave away only 7 runs from his three overs.

Ōtaki's much improved second inning batting saw four players contribute more than 20 runs to help the team finish their 20 overs with 127 runs for the loss of five wickets.

Lucas Whiting top scored with 25 not out, Tim Donnell scored 24, Greg Selby 22 and Fraser Imrie 21 not out.

They then bowled Waikanae out for just 93 runs to secure the victory.

Fraser Imrie starred both with the ball and in the field.

He took two wickets and conceded just 8 runs from his three overs and held onto two catches.

Greg Selby also bowled outstandingly, taking three wickets for 22 runs from his four overs.

The Presidents grade cricketers will play in three competitions this season. As well as the T20 Test Match, there will be a 20 over and a 40 over competition.

Last season Ōtaki won two of the three competitions – the T20 Test Match and the T20 – and finished second in the 40 over contest after being top qualifiers for the final.

below: Lucas Whiting hits a four on his way to the top second innings score of 25 not out



Ōtaki's three young NZ Rugby reps

BY FRANK NEILL

Three young Rugby players who have shone on the field for the Rāhui Sport Club have recently represented New Zealand.

Rangimārie Sturmeý made a very successful debut for the Black Ferns XV (a team second only to the Black Ferns) on 23 September.

Her brother Quinn was selected in the New Zealand Māori Ngā Whatukura under 18 team.

And Fletcher Carpenter joined the All Blacks Sevens camp and played in a series of friendly matches against Tonga on 7 and 8 October.

Rangimārie won her selection in the Black Ferns XV following an outstanding season for the Manawatū Cyclones.

She then helped her team take out a convincing 38–12 victory over Manusiua XV on 23 September after the Black Ferns XV led 19–7 at half time.

Manusiua XV is Samoa's equivalent of the Black Ferns XV.

Rangimārie made her debut when she came on in the second half, playing at first five eight.

Rangimārie began playing rugby for Rāhui when she was five years old and continued until she was 15.

She played age-grade reps for Horowhenua–Kāpiti and Te Rāhui Kura in secondary school competitions

After attending Ōtaki School and Ōtaki College, Rangimārie moved to Feilding High School in 2019.

That same year she was selected for the Manawatū Cyclones women's premier team as just a 16-year-old and continues to play for them.

This year she was named in the Hurricanes squad to contest the inaugural women's Super Rugby Aupiki competition.

Rangimārie was also a member of the successful invitation team, the Central Storm, that competed in the World School Sevens tournament in January this year.

After defeating the NZ Condors, Cook Islands and Nuie, the Central Storm then dispatched the NZ Cavaliers in the semi-final. However, they lost the final to the NZ Condors, who they had beaten in the round robin.

As well as being in the team that finished second in the competition, Rangimārie was also selected in the World School Sevens tournament team.

Like his sister, Quinn began playing rugby for Rāhui when he was five years old. He also played representative Rugby in various Horowhenua–Kāpiti age-group teams.

He attended Ōtaki School and Ōtaki College before moving to Palmerston North Boys High School, where he played in the school's first XV and for the Manawatū under 16 team.

Earlier this year Quinn was selected for the Hurricanes under 18 camp and, after the camp, was in the Hurricanes under 18 team that narrowly lost a high-scoring match against the Crusaders under 18s.

Following his selection in the New Zealand Māori Ngā Whatukura under 18 team, Quinn put in a very strong performance at loose forward in the team's first match.

They convincingly defeated Northland under 19 62–0 after leading 24–0 at half-time on 23 September.

"I'm super proud of Rangimārie and Quinn," their mother Andrea Sturmeý says. "For me the great joy is seeing them enjoy themselves and make the most of their opportunities."

Fletcher not only secured an invitation to train with the New Zealand Sevens team, he also scored five tries when New Zealand defeated Tonga in the three matches the two teams played.

Famous former New Zealand Sevens coach Sir Gordon Tietjens has his eye on Fletcher too.

He has contacted Fletcher and invited him to play in a team he coaches that will compete in the Fiji Sevens championship in Sigatoka in January 2024.

Fletcher began playing rugby for Rāhui when he was a student at Waitohu School, before he moved to Palmerston North Boys High School.

During his time at high school he played for the New Zealand Secondary Schools team.

He then moved to the Bay of Plenty where he currently works as a teacher aide, and where he has just finished playing for the Bay of Plenty under 19 team, as well as training with the Bay of Plenty Sevens.

"He's going great guns," his father Paul Carpenter says.

"He hasn't quite cracked the [New Zealand Sevens] team yet, but he is getting very close.

"He's still only 18 and he's doing very well. He's ticking all the boxes," Paul says.



top right: Fletcher Carpenter

middle right: Rangimārie Sturmeý

bottom right: Quinn Sturmeý with his nan, Renee Sturmeý





Gardening with

Garden tasks for November



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Flower garden

Mulch your perennials, trees and shrubs with compost, bark or peat to conserve soil moisture.

Pick off rhododendron seed pods if the weather is dry.

All chrysanthemums and dahlias can now be planted – stake existing plants.

Tie up herbaceous perennials.

Plant pond plants, including water lilies.

Liquid feed all flowering annuals and perennials.

Feed flowering shrubs with a side dressing of general fertiliser.

Prune flowering shrubs as soon as blooming is over – lilacs, philadelphus, shrubby spireas and deutzias.

Continue planting new roses using plenty of compost.

Plant hibiscus plants for a tropical look in your garden.

Prune back excess shoots on wisteria after flowering.

Keep sweet peas and roses well watered. Feed with liquid manure and remove faded flowers.

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

Sow in trays for transplanting later: carnations, dahlia, livingstone daisy, petunia, salvia, gerberas, celosia, phlox and geranium.

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

Fruit and vegetable garden

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lightly prune passionfruit.

Lawns

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

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

Second thoughts

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

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

Focus on growing chillies

Chillies come from the same species (*Capsicum annum*) as sweet peppers, and are kin to tomatoes, aubergines, potatoes and tamarillos. Hot is the operative word for these super-charged veggies, in looks, taste and growth requirements. To produce their fiery heat and fine flavour, they need to be grown in the heat of summer and allowed to mature through a long, fine autumn.

If you're planning to grow chillies from seed, sow in trays or pots and place in a warm spot – they require temperatures of at least 15C° to germinate. Like most other plants, chilli seeds need warmth, oxygen and moisture before germination can occur.

Anything you can do to increase heat aids their subsequent growth, including covering them with cloches or surrounding them with heat-absorbing rocks.

When the soil and weather is reliably warm, plant your chillies, 30cm apart, in fertile, free-draining soil. Don't over-burden soil with fresh nitrogen – too much nitrogen produces excess foliage at the expense of fruit, and makes plants susceptible to disease.

Pick a warm spot that receives full sun for at least half the day, and feed regularly with liquid fertiliser to ensure steady, disease-resistant growth.

Chilli plants are compact, however their shallow root system needs support – put a stake in when transplanting. They also need regular watering to produce quality fruit, but are pretty tough once established, and can tolerate dry conditions provided they have periodic deep watering.

Soil that stays wet for long periods can bring on root-rot,

and may also lead to fruit having a bitter taste. Plants grown in constantly dry soil will produce smaller crops of under-sized fruit. Mulching with a weed-free product, such as pea-straw pellets, will help maintain soil moisture.

Regular harvesting of chillies encourages more fruit to grow, so make sure you pick early and often. When you've picked the summer crop, prune plant to at least half their size – this helps the chilli survive over winter.

If your chillies haven't quite finished ripening before the first frosts threaten, cut the plants off at ground level and hang upside down indoors until they turn red.

Chillies are eaten in almost every culture, and there are hundreds of varieties around the world, ranging from mild to the exceedingly hot, such as 'Habanero Red', which has a colour to match the flavour – a choice for the true chilli aficionado.

A pungent yet mild variety is 'Anaheim' which ripens to a deep scarlet, but can also be used when still green if fully formed.

If you're interested in drying your chillies, 'Asian Fire' is hot and spicy, can be used in both its unripe and ripe form, and is an excellent variety for stringing up, drying, then grinding into your own chilli powder.

Chilli plants are an attractive addition to either the ornamental or vegetable garden, and with their glossy leaves, white, star-shaped flowers and first green, then deep red fruit, look good enough in pots to grace the sunniest spot on your deck or porch – but keep way from little fingers.

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the Ōtaki Mail

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

Tough and pretty dietes

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

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

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

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

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

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

D. grandiflora is sometimes known as the wild iris. It grows quickly and easily, the narrow, dark-green leaves reaching around a metre (being evergreen the plant is always attractive). The plant produces wide, white iris-like flowers

marked with mauve and orange yellow. The blooms last for several days in spring and autumn. In true testimony to their toughness, I've seen mass plantings of *D. grandiflora* flowering generously in a shopping area where they get some shelter and afternoon sun, but are in a cold, draughty corridor.

The preferred habitat for *D. iridioides*, also known as the Fortnight lily, is in semi-shade under tall, open trees but it will tolerate nearly full sun. Producing the most iris-like flowers, it has branching, wiry stems that carry 6-8cm wide, dainty white flowers with central yellow marks. It grows to a height of 60cm and a spread of 30-60cm, forming dense, fan-shaped clumps. There are several cultivars of this shy plant, but these are not always easy to track down in New Zealand.

If you're a lover of unusual plants, consider *D. robinsoniana*, a tall (can exceed 1.8m), and wide (8cm) species that hails from Lord Howe Island, Australia. Sometimes called the wedding lily, the flowers are beautiful, impressively large (10cm wide) and pure white. Although the blooms are fleeting (over in a day), the plants bloom extravagantly from early November through to autumn.

It's one of the most frost-tender species and requires warm temperatures, but will live happily at the beach, not bothered by salt winds.

D. robinsoniana is prodigal with its seed and can be increased easily but will take time to germinate and grow. You can divide it as well.



The scents of the pelargonium

There's much to love about the scented *Pelargonium* species, and their strongly perfumed yet pleasant leaves rate high on the love list. The foliage's distinctive aromas are thought to have evolved as a deterrent to hordes of browsing wildlife in their homeland, South Africa.

The fragrance, which varies from one species to another, comes from a mixture of volatile oils with as many 200 components. Unable to define the range of these oils, gardeners have long called the plants by the scent they remind us of (*Pelargonium tomentosum* is known as peppermint geranium because its leaves have a strong peppermint scent, especially when crushed).

Other species are known for their almond, pineapple, apple, lemon, nutmeg, coconut, rose and even chocolate mint scents. Added to these are the different aromas of the many different cultivars and hybrids produced since scented *Pelargonium* species were introduced to Europe in the 17th century. My favourites are those with rose or lemon scented foliage which are lovely planted near an outside seating area, and ideal for planting in a garden for the sight impaired.

Scented pelargoniums love sun and suit dry, free-draining soil so are great for coastal planting and for under sunny eaves. Tough as old boots, they will thrive if they get sun for half the day in summer. They also like the reflected heat and shelter if planted against a wall or fence.

If your garden is frost-prone, grow them under trees for shelter (they're quite happy in dappled shade). If in the open, frost will burn off the top foliage in winter, but you can trim this off in spring, once frosts are past.

Plants prefer soil that is reasonably fertile and not too acidic (dig in some compost when planting).

The small-leaved varieties grow well in pots although remember to regularly feed and water, and all types can be propagated easily from tip cuttings. These are best taken in autumn, but they can be rooted at any time of year. They will grow from seed but may not always come true to form.

Scented pelargoniums can be rather thuggish, so bear that in mind when selecting your planting position. However,

with four different types there's sure to be one to suit your gardening needs.

The low, ground-covering group has small, rounded leaves and contains the smallest varieties, including nutmeg and apple. These have tiny, white flowers, while another one, coconut, has bright, pink flowers.

Upright, small-leaved types have similar leaves but taller, compact growth up to 50cm – 1m high, and include 'Lady Scarborough' (lime) and 'Lady Plymouth' (ginger).

The vigorous, large, sprawling varieties such as peppermint and oak-leaf can grow up to 1m high and 2m wide, and the more upright plants, including the pretty, intensely lemon-smelling 'Mabel Grey,' can also grow to 2m wide in ideal conditions.

The scent of scented pelargoniums can also vary in different types of soil, and at different times of the day (what you smelt with that breakfast cuppa could be quite different to the scent over your evening wine).



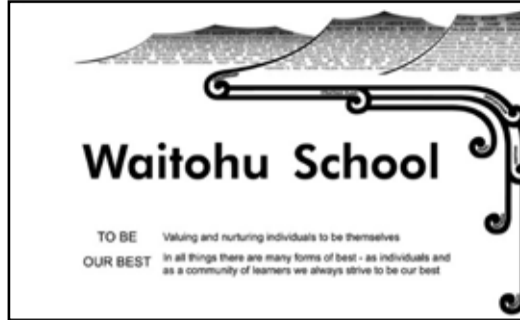
Ōtaki – Education Town

Waitohu School 60th *continued from front page*

BY FRANK NEILL



left: Waitohu School's 60th anniversary cake



right: Waitohu School Tumuaki (Principal) Maine Curtis speaking at the special assembly marking the school's 60th anniversary.

below: Some of the Waitohu School students singing during the special assembly to mark the school's 60th anniversary.



One-year Scholarship Awarded at Te Wānanga o Raukawa Open Day

A one-year study scholarship was awarded to Alize Apera-Ngaha (Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Mahuta, Te Āti Awa, Muaūpoko) at the Te Wānanga o Raukawa Open Day held on Saturday 7 October. Alize [pictured right] says, "There are no words to express how happy I am to be awarded the scholarship". She is going to be studying Heke Whakaakoranga Kōhungahunga (Diploma in Teaching, Early Childhood).

Below is a brief kōrero from Alize about herself, why she chose to study Whakaakoranga Kōhungahunga and where she sees this qualification taking her.

He uri tēnei nō Ngāti-Rārua, nō Ngāti-Mahuta. Heoi anō i pakeke ahau i roto i te āhurutanga o Rangitāne, o Mana Tamariki. I whāngaihia mai te reo e tōku māmā, nā reira i reo Māori ai tōku whānau, waihoki, tōku tipuranga. He mātāwaenga tēnei e rata ana ki te tuitui me te tunu kai.

"He tūponotanga noa iho te rēhita i taua wā tonu. I taku taenga ki te Wānanga, nā te wairua au i kawe.

He hua tēnei, ka mutu, he mokopuna tēnei nō te kaupapa tonu, nā reira me pehea e kore ai au e hoki ki te kaupapa. Ko te manu tuauru, ko te tuku ihotanga o te mātauranga Māori ki ngā tamariki mokopuna.

He hiahia nōku ki te mau ki ngā whakaakoranga me ngā mōhiotanga katoa e eke ai au ki ngā tihi taumata, ka mutu, kia riro i ngā tamariki ngā painga huhua o tēnei ao.

Kāore he kupu hei whakaahua i te nui o taku harikoa kia whakawhiwhia ki a au te whiwhinga nei."

Over 200 attended the Open Day held last month, despite the bad weather. Many taking the opportunity to participate in activities, tour the new buildings and find out study options for 2024. Anyone interested in finding out about qualifications that underpin a Māori world view can visit www.wananga.com.




Seven Decades Strong!

Ōtaki Playcentre will celebrate 70 years in 2024.

We're looking for past families, and their stories, who connect to our whānau.

If you're keen to join the celebration, or have a story to share, then please contact Sue Barrett: susan@kapitiisland.com or, pass this notice on to others you think may be interested. (An invitation to attend will follow.)



Ōtaki College News

November 2023

www.otakicollege.school.nz

From the Principal

We are now very much in the final sprint for home with our senior students. I would urge all whānau to be encouraging their children to be focusing on the completion of all outstanding work for final assessments and readying themselves for any externals that they are entered for. I look forward to our Sports and Senior prize-givings, where our students' hard work throughout the year is celebrated.

I would like to sincerely thank all whānau who took the opportunity to come in and meet with our teachers on 19 October. Having these face to face meetings is really important in sharing student achievement and formulating next steps to improve opportunities as we move forward.

Visit from Robert Gordon's College

With our ongoing relationship with Robert Gordon's College, it was fantastic to be able to host ten RGC students and three staff

members, including Headmaster Robin Macpherson. Our Scottish visitors arrived late on Saturday 7 October, having travelled to Ōtaki from Auckland, where they were attending the GAIL (Global Alliance for Innovative Learning) Conference. While in Ōtaki they saw many of the sites that are included on the itinerary for the annual tour of the Ōtaki Scholar, starting with a pōwhiri at Raukawa Marae, attended by local officials. Later in the trip they were hosted by Kāpiti Coast Mayor, Janet Holborow, and then had a day in Wellington, seeing the sites and attending a Wētā Workshop tour. A particular highlight for the visitors was their night spent kiwi spotting on Kāpiti Island. Our thanks to Kāpiti Island Nature Tours for making this such a special time for both students and staff.

Having opportunities like this help us to continue to have that strength of relationship that will continue for many years to come.

Andy Fraser, Principal



above: Robert Gordon's College staff and students, accompanied by Ōtaki College Principal Andy Fraser, with Her Worship, Mayor Janet Holborow.

EVolocity Success

Wednesday 18 October saw an early start for Witana Cameron and his engineering teacher, Chris Georgetti. They packed up a trailer with Witana's EVolocity vehicle – an electric cart that he had designed and built over the year – in preparation for racing in the Manawatū-Wellington EVolocity Competition that was taking place at KartSport Manawatū.

Witana's vehicle is Lightning McQueen-themed. It is a three-wheeled cart that is front-wheel drive with rear-wheel steering. After passing a very thorough scrutineering, Witana had an extremely successful day, winning the following events:

- 1st - Electronic innovation
- 1st - Showstopper award (presentation of vehicle and overall design)

- 1st - Overall performance (taken from performance over all the races)
- 1st - Endurance (quickest time to complete 6 laps)
- 1st - Efficiency (least energy used in 6 laps)
- 1st - Gymkhana (slalom, pick-up and deliveries, and water-carrying).

He was also awarded 2nd for Drag race, and 2nd for Engineering innovation.

Huge thanks to Energise Ōtaki, who made this year's vehicle possible with their funding through the Whakahiko grant that allowed for the purchase of the motor, battery and other electronics; and to EVolocity for holding the events throughout the country and inspiring students to explore engineering-related fields.

below: Witana Cameron in his winning three-wheeled electric cart



Ex-student brings Solo Show to College

On Wednesday 18 October ex-Ōtaki College student Parekawa Finlay brought her solo show to Ōtaki College Drama classes. She created this play while studying at Te Auaha in Wellington. After the performances she had some great

discussions with the students about colonisation, tā moko, multiple perspectives, appropriation, identity, being true to yourself, and loop pedals. Ōtaki College students led haka in response and gratitude after the final performance.

Outdoor Education Continues to Offer Exciting Opportunities

ODE1 recently took part in an overnight tramp in the Kahuterawa Park, Tararua Range. Students were required to select a suitable campsite in which to set up and sleep under fly-sheets. The off-track navigation component, platinum underground mines and views of the wind farms added just the right amount of variety. The students who took part were well organised and they pushed hard physically throughout different times of the trip. A huge thank you to Charlie Simpson who came to help out.



ODE3 Wharepapa South Rock Climbing, Term 4

Last week, ODE3 completed their Rock Climbing practical performance at the Wharepapa South climbing crag. These students were amazing the way they supported each other through what were some very challenging lead climbs. This was a five-day trip, which included a session at Extreme Edge in Hamilton. 'Send it!'



ODE3 Mt. Ruapehu, Alpine, Term 3

Last term, ODE3 took part in their Alpine Trip which lined up with an epic week of 'bluebird' days, because of this it was easy to tag-on an extra day of skiing/snowboarding! This group covered a range of activities from camping in the snow to ice-climbing, with the main focus being alpine navigation. The two highlights: carving up the slopes in perfect 'bluebird' conditions; and also reaching the summit of Ruapehu. 'Stoked!'



ODE2 Mt. Holdsworth, Tramping, Term 3

At the end of last term, ODE2 students completed the Holdsworth Loop (Tararua Range). The track slightly modified, students had to make some decisions based on the weather conditions, leading to an alternative route down to Atiwhakatu Hut for the last night of a three-day tramp. Students gained valuable experience towards understanding weather conditions and how these play a big part when making decisions about the safety of the group in high-risk environments. A huge thank you to Matthieu Vignes who came to help out.



AHOAHO PLANT SALE

NOVEMBER 5TH
3pm-5pm
at Ōtaki College

HERBS, VEGGIE SEEDLINGS, FLOWERS AND UNUSUAL PERENNIALS
GROWN BY THE STUDENTS OF ŌTAKI COLLEGE

* CASH ONLY *

if you would like to help us prepare for this event, please get in touch at
Ahoahomarakai@gmail.com

Mayor Holborow's report

BY JANET HOLBOROW – KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT MAYOR

It's been a busy month in Ōtaki. So much has been going on, this month's column will be a bit of a romp around some local events. Early this month Energise Ōtaki launched their new Business Energy Service, a free service helping businesses across Kāpiti and Horowhenua reduce their energy consumption. For many years now Energise Ōtaki has shown tremendous commitment to building a sustainable future for the community and have continued to innovate and act. The transition to a low-carbon, resilient Kāpiti Coast District is vital, so we're pleased to support organisations like Energise Ōtaki.

On another note, it was great to attend the Ōtaki Children's market on Sunday and award prizes for the most outstanding stalls. The quality and presentation of the stalls was superb, and the young stallholders were so confident talking about their products as I went around talking to each one.

Later that day I attended the launch of a new heritage organisation – Ōtaki Heritage – a conflation of the former Ōtaki Historical Society and the Ōtaki Museum. This initiative will enable these two organisations to fulfil some of their plans for the future, including more engagement with kura and

colleges and enhanced digital elements. Rawiri Rikihana was there to support the new initiative on behalf of Nga Hapū o Ōtaki. It had been a significant and monumental week with Waitangi claims hearings, which were held at Raukawa



Marae. The Waitangi process will help to right the wrongs of the past and enable them to do so much more for hapū and community in the future.

Another Ōtaki event at the Raukawa Marae was the Pōwhiri to welcome students from

Robert Gordon's College [pictured]. The relationship between the two colleges is long-standing and allows an exchange of culture and experience. The students have appreciated learning about the relationship with mana whenua, the natural environment, and the hospitality of our local people.

They also had the opportunity to visit Kāpiti Island, and it was great to see them again after that at council, where Councillor Sophie Handford and I talked with them about local government and the work of council.

Finally, it was a pleasure to speak to the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association at the Ōtaki Māori Racing Club on Labour Weekend. There were probably around 200 in attendance, and they all talked of the warm welcome they'd received from the community and businesses. Thanks to Andre Baker for his welcome and informative speech about the local area.

Also coming up at Ōtaki Māori Racing Club is the Whakaaro Whakairo Arts Symposium, being held as part of Te Ara Toi Kāpiti Art Trail being held over the first two weekends in November. More information at kapiticoastarttrail.co.nz.

Out and about with Shell

BY SHELLY WARWICK – ŌTAKI WARD COUNCILLOR

On 5 October I had the pleasure of attending the Energise Ōtaki launch of their Business Energy Service: a service provided by Energise Ōtaki volunteers to work with businesses and explore ideas of how businesses can have more sustainable environmentally friendly energy.

Energise Ōtaki is a charity mostly run by volunteers, which has been going now for 12 years and is to be commended for the amazing work they have done in Ōtaki to support energy efficiency and reduction of waste.

Some of the projects they run are the Curtain Bank (part of the home-health project Warm Up Ōtaki) which puts thermal curtains into homes to keep our people warm; Ōtaki Bike Space, repair and give-away, which reduces pushbikes to landfill; Ōtaki Repair Café; two solar farms generating income for energy projects; and a developing plan for carbon forests.

The Whakahiko Ōtaki–Energise Ōtaki Fund, with money from New Zealand's first-ever, community-owned solar farm right here in Ōtaki, is up for submissions

now. If you have a project that will reduce energy use, use better cleaner energy, turn waste to energy, or an event, artwork, research or study into energy efficiency – or even other energy related good work in our community! – you can apply. Energise Ōtaki are happy to help with applications and give advice.

For all the information you can go to: www.energiseotaki.nz/whakahiko23 Applications close on 5 November.

Thank you Energise Ōtaki, wonderful volunteers giving their time, energy and expertise for us all to have a better future, and supporting our town to be inventive and creative in the energy space with their vision in setting up the Whakahiko Fund.

right: Energise Ōtaki's Business Energy Service launch at Ōtaki College. Witana Cameron with his electric cart – funded by the Whakahiko Fund – is in the foreground.



Annual Ōtaki Foodbank collection 2023

The annual Ōtaki Foodbank collection will take place this year on Saturday 25 November and is organised by community group Friends of the Ōtaki Foodbank.

Friends of the Ōtaki Foodbank was formed with the blessing of the Ōtaki Foodbank committee with members committed to the continuation of this valuable annual service.

up a few cans or other goodies, then attach it to your bag or box of food and leave somewhere easily seen by our collectors. The leaflet can also be attached to your letterbox to let the collectors know to come to the door and receive the donation. Collectors will be out from 9am on Saturday 25 November.



"Every year, we're amazed at the generosity of Ōtaki residents. With costs continuing to rise, there's an even greater need in the community, and we appreciate every donation, big or small, that supports the work of the Ōtaki Foodbank."

Look out for the distinctive yellow flyers in letterboxes from the middle of November. Put it on the fridge as a reminder to collect

The Friends of the Ōtaki Foodbank welcome other helpers. Our focus is on this one annual event, with a couple of meetings in advance. Then, in November, we deliver leaflets and do the collection on the day.

If anyone wants to join us, or is available to help deliver leaflets, or do the collection on the day, please contact Don Howden on 027 423 6487.

Seasonal Surplus Stall starting soon

Each summer, on Thursdays, the Seasonal Surplus Stall occupies a spot outside the Memorial Hall on Main Street, Ōtaki, and this year will be no different. Starting on Thursday 23 November, fresh and locally grown produce will be available. You can be sure that it is varied, local and very fresh. Most of what we sell is surplus from the growers' own gardens and will probably have been harvested or picked that morning. It's an ideal way to get just the right amount for your family, or just for yourself.

It often sells out quite quickly.

We started 12 years ago with the idea that people could bring any surplus produce from their garden to sell and in return earn some money to replenish their own garden again. The main idea is to promote community sharing. Nowadays, Ōtaki has several food-related initiatives and we co-operate with like-minded groups. It has been an interesting way to introduce new foods and ideas for many. There are plants to give away or swap, encouraging others to try growing vegetables on their own.

Any monies raised are always distributed locally to groups involved with helping families to get food to their tables.



So, 23 November is the first day of the new buying-and-selling season. Please bring your surplus to sell or donate at 11.00am. We'll be selling from 11.15am. We look forward to seeing all our regulars meeting and newcomers.

As a volunteer project, we are always happy to welcome new faces into our team. If this is something you would like to be involved with, just come along, shop, and talk to us.

Serious concerns about subdivision access

BY FRANK NEILL

The panel appointed by the Environmental Protection Agency to consider an application for a major new subdivisions, that plans to provide access via Moy Place and Sue Avenue, made a visit to the site on Friday 20 October.

“They spent several hours there – a panel of two women and a man,” says Lyall Payne, the spokesperson for the residents of Moy Place and Sue Avenue, who are concerned that the developer plans to provide access to the subdivision via their streets.

The reason that the panel will be considering the application is that the developer has used the “fast-track” process in seeking approval for the subdivision.

The residents group has engaged Monique Leith of Leith Consulting Ltd to advise

them on the fast-track application and provide expert planning evidence as needed. “The panel has now been formed and have completed a site visit,” Monique told the *Ōtaki Mail*.



above: Monique Leith of Leith Consulting Ltd.

“It is pleasing to see at least one panel member has local knowledge – David McMahon, who has been a Hearings Commissioner on other local planning projects, including the District Plan Hearings.

“We continue to have serious concerns about the adverse road-safety effects on Moy Place and Sue Avenue,” Monique said.

“My assessment of these effects are that, without some meaningful mitigation along Moy and Sue, they will be significantly adverse and permanent.

“There will also be serious adverse safety-effects arising from construction traffic should it utilise existing roads as proposed.

“These effects could be mitigated by

implementing a series of safeguards along Moy and Sue and redesigning the main access to come directly from the Main Highway.

“We have asked [Kāpiti Coast District] Council to have a look at this.

“We understand council’s assessment of the application is in progress.

“The decision to accept the application for the fast-track process is completely separate to the panel’s assessment and decision on the application.

“The panel will need to be confident that the adverse effects from the development are suitably minor.

“The panel is under no obligation to approve the application,” Monique said.

Site set for construction of new Ōtaki Reservoir following blessing

A ceremony to clear the way for work to begin on the new Ōtaki reservoir was held today, reports Kāpiti Coast District Council Mayor Janet Holborow.

“The ceremony, or whakawatea, led by Ngā Hapu ō Ōtaki, recognised the land’s ongoing role in sustaining its community. In days gone by, mana whenua gathered food from this area. Then the land was farmed and now it will support a drinking water reservoir,” said Mayor Holborow.

“The ceremony also acknowledged the workers who will build the reservoir and wished them a safe project.”

Works begin this week. The first stage involves clearing the area and building earth bunds which will help screen the reservoir. The next stage, construction of the reservoir foundations, is expected to be completed before the end of the year. Construction of the foundation pad and then

the main tank will begin in early 2024. In February, installation of the pipes from the reservoir site to County Road pump station will begin. All going to plan, the reservoir will be up and running in late 2024.

Council is working with a group of

interested community members to develop a planting plan for the reservoir site. The guiding principle of the planting is to plant native trees to help screen the reservoir and attract birds to the area.

The new reservoir will improve the

resilience and fire-fighting capability of the water supply as well as support existing and future homes in Ōtaki. It will also provide more water storage for emergency purposes.

Over the next six years Kāpiti Coast District Council will deliver \$50 million worth of infrastructure upgrades in Ōtaki. This work is supported by \$29.3 million from the government’s Infrastructure Acceleration Fund and is designed to improve our community’s resilience and support current and future housing needs. Projects include improvements to Ōtaki drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and transport networks.

Source: Kāpiti Coast District Council



left: Mayor Holborow, Koro Don Te Maipi and others at reservoir site blessing 28 September

Ōtaki Reservoir – earthworks underway

Work has now started on our new 5.5 million-litre Otaki Reservoir!

The first steps involve our contractors building environmental protection features and building an access haul road. Next they’ll carry out ground improvements to build a strong foundation for the reservoir and lay pipes from the reservoir to Te Manau Road.

Construction of the tank will begin early next year. All going well, the new reservoir will be operational by the end of 2024.

Site environmental controls were tested during a large downpour in mid-October and we’re pleased to report the rain channels and silt mesh worked well. All the rain runoff was contained with no spillage onto nearby properties.

The new reservoir will improve the resilience of our drinking water network and local fire-fighting capability, and increase the volume of water storage for emergencies.

Find out more at kapiticoast.govt.nz/otaki-reservoir



Arts, Books Corner

Light Keeping

by Adrienne Jansen

REVIEWED BY ANN CHAPMAN

I first came across Adrienne Jansen when I was doing a poetry course with Renée, and she had us studying one of Adrienne's beautiful poems.

Like her poems, this book *Light Keeping* is a story of mystery, gently written, taking the reader on a softly whispered journey of anguish, and then hope.

It evokes New Zealand's history of lighthouse-keeping – before they all became automated – with the story of two orphaned children who grew up with their grandparents, living on a rough coastal headland in a lighthouse.

It cleverly traverses time, with chapters moving between when Jess and Robert were children and then to when they were adults. It is two stories intertwined: the story of childhood and then adulthood, alongside the story and history of lighthouse-keeping told in the wisdom and dreams of the storytelling grandfather Bill.

Adrienne writes of the majesty of lighthouses, standing tall against the wind, solid as they fight the wind and stormy seas. You can feel the solitude, the danger, the excitement as the family battles its own inner demons and loss, and that of the wind and sea. It tells of how the love of grandparents eventually overrides the loss of parents, even while the grandparents themselves have to cope with the loss of their own son and daughter-in-law.

Adrienne, while not a Kāpiti resident, lives almost locally in Titahi Bay. *Light Keeping* is her sixth novel and was one of three shortlisted for the 2021 Michael Gifkins prize.

Available from Books & Co.,

Main Highway, Ōtaki. Published by Quentin Wilson Publishing, Christchurch. Price \$37.50

Local launch event for *Light Keeping*: Sunday 19 November, 4pm. Please rsvp otaki@booksandco.co.nz



The Talent Game

by Rochelle Maroon

REVIEWED BY ANN CHAPMAN

This is a delightful book for young adults, aged eleven or older, written by former Kāpiti resident Rochelle Maroon. It is her first book of fiction for young adults. It's a book of dreams and magic.

It's a story about ambition and football and Max who wants to be good at anything, especially football.

Trouble starts when a teammate tells Max that he's got power – 'loser power'. Max doesn't give up. He keeps playing, desperate to be brilliant. And that desperation leads him into trouble: magic trouble and a game that gives him special, extraordinary talent. Those powers lead him to meet others, all driven by the same secret manipulator: via texts with clues, timeframes and the threat of being dropped if you come last. This is essentially a well-crafted book about wanting to be the best and peer pressure.

And, in the end, it's about winning and at what cost. And is winning the end goal, or not? Or is it about finding friends you can trust and rely on along the way? Throw in a little magic and what's not to like?

The book is self-published and available at Books & Co, Main Highway, Ōtaki.

Price \$23.00



Kāpiti Concert Orchestra

Salutes the 40's



CONDUCTOR: Michael Vinten

SOLOISTS: Barbara Graham **SOPRANO**
Deborah Rawson **CLARINET**

Ōtaki Memorial Hall

Saturday 11th November 2.30pm

www.kco.nz

COMPOSERS:

Lilburn | Ritchie | Braithwaite
Hoagy Carmichael
Richard Rodgers
Kurt Weil | Artie Shaw

TICKETS:
Ph 0800 BUY TIX
(0800) 289 849

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Door Sales **CASH ONLY**

\$20 Adult
\$10 Students,
under 12
FREE ADMISSION

STORAGE NEEDED URGENTLY

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

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

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

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

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

Please contact:
graham@otakiplayers.nz

Uenuku Hawira
Whakaaro Whakaaro 2022

Jason Hina
Whakaaro Whakaaro 2022

Sania Snowden
Whakaaro Whakaaro 2022

Whakaaro Whakaaro

Thought becomes reality

ARTS Symposium Ōtaki 2023

Artists creating on site
Artwork sales

Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club
Alongside the Ōtaki Pottery Club
4th - 12th November 10 to 4pm

Raceday 9th Nov

Whakaaro-Whakaaro.com/FB/Instagram

New locally led TV series *Shepherdess*

On Sunday 22nd October, the first episode in a brand new locally led television series, *Shepherdess*, premiered.

The six-part series airs Sunday nights at 7.30pm on Sky Open throughout November.

Each episode visits a different town or settlement, travelling from Tokanui to Pōrangahau, Ophir to Upper Moutere, and Kurow to Tora, leaning in to the lives of three women in each place, as they share stories of courage, commitment and community.

The series was led by Executive Producer, Kristy McGregor, who lives on a farm at Manakau. Kristy is also publisher and editor-in-chief of *Shepherdess*, a quarterly magazine, the first edition of which was published in Autumn 2020

If you missed the first couple of episodes of the TV series of *Shepherdess*, you can catch up on Sky Go online, or on the Sky Go app.





Ngā Arotakenga Mai i Te Whare Whakamatau o Ōtaki

 Book Reviews from Ōtaki Library

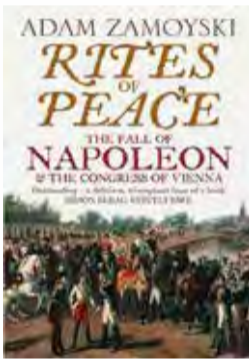
Straight up by Ruby Tui



Ruby Tui's story is a testament to unwavering determination in the face of adversity. From a challenging upbringing, Ruby's journey to becoming a world-renowned rugby sevens player is both inspiring and deeply moving.

Tui's narrative not only highlights her athletic achievements but also serves as a guide to life's invaluable lessons. Throughout the book, she shares insightful tips on resilience, self-belief, and the power of teamwork.

Rites of peace by Adam Zamoyski



This fascinating book follows the reconstruction of Europe during the Congress of Vienna. At the heart of the story is Napoleon, fighting for his throne, but the politicians from all over Europe are each investigated.

Zamoyski captures a one of the most significant parts of European history in such a way that if he was writing fiction, no one would believe it! If you like history, this is a great read.

Available on Libby/Overdrive only

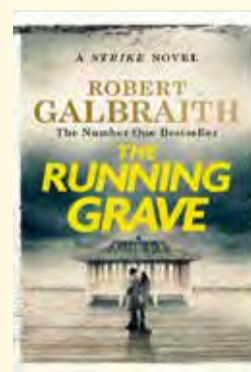
Independence Square by Martin Cruz Smith



An old cop in the new Russia, Arkady Renko must find the missing daughter of a leading Moscow gangster. His search takes him to Kyiv and Crimea, and is hampered by murder, corruption, biker gangs and Putin's secret police.

Set against the lead-up to the invasion of Ukraine, this is a grim but gripping read. It's the tenth book in the best-selling Arkady Renko series which began with Gorky Park. All books in the series can be reserved through the library.

The running grave by Robert Galbraith



This book is the latest in the Cormoran Strike series (number 7). Another fantastic book, it keeps you glued to it the whole way through, even though it is a big read! It is a really good mystery, and the relationship between the two main characters is delved into excitingly, along with providing an unexpected outcome. Although this is also a TV series, the books are definitely worth reading!

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ŌTAKI HERITAGE

Te Whare Pouhere Taonga o Ōtaki

ŌTAKI IN THE NEWS ~ 1920

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

January 6

The plethora of grass in the Otaki district caused by the copious rains has enabled the farmers to shut off larger areas than usual for hay. The hay is good in quality, and if the dairy farmers can only get it stacked in a dry condition their cows will not go short of feed during the coming winter.

Milk is still very plentiful, and the dairy factories at Otaki and Levin are fully employed. In past years the flush of the season has been over after December, but this year the factories expect to have their greatest output in the present month.

Dr Baldwin, who has been offered a commission as Surgeon-Captain of the Eighth Contingent, finds that he cannot arrange his affairs in time, and will be unable to go to South Africa.

Otaki's quota for the Eighth Contingent consists of Pepper, Jenkins, Sheehan, Cootes, Walton, and Jackson. These men are of the right stamp, and without exception most intrepid riders. Captain Pringle is also going

January 16

Miss Marion Wallace, a young lady of rare vocal ability, and a direct descendant of Te Rauparaha, was married today to Mr R. D'Ath. There was a great gathering of prominent pakehas and Maoris at the home of the bride's mother, and many speeches were made in both Maori and English.

March 24

Through traffic by road between Wellington and Otaki is now established,

and a few weeks will see the completion of the whole work. This will have a great effect upon the progress of the district.

The Otaki Maori Racing Club has accepted a tender for the erection of a people's grandstand, stewards' room, press-room, and several other improvements, the whole to be completed for the Autumn Meeting.

April 11

One of the largest mobs of sheep that has been on our roads was driven through Otaki on Wednesday. It consisted of about 4000 sheep, which are being driven from Napier to Wellington, en route for Addington, the great central market of Canterbury.

April 25

It is estimated that £175 will have to be spent on protective works to prevent the Otaki river forming a new course for itself in close proximity to the Otaki railway station.

May 16

Mr Wm. Cootes, of Otaki, who stowed away with the Eighth Contingent, but was left ashore at Sydney, joined one of the Commonwealth Contingents, and is now in South Africa.

June 10

Coronation Day is to be celebrated in Otaki by holding a procession in the morning, the hoisting and saluting of the flag at the school, a thanksgiving service in the open market-place, and in the evening a torchlight procession and military ball.

A.W. Broadway, Otaki, breeder and exhibitor of Brown Leghorns, has 5 young cockerels for sale, 12s 6d each, or £2 10s the lot. These birds are the sons of my old Champion, who has won 5 firsts, 1 championship and 2 seconds the only times shown. Large size, good colour, and grand birds to improve your own. Selling to make room.

July 3

A committee has been set up in Otaki to take the necessary steps to secure the formation of a River Board, for the purpose of having the property of settlers adjacent to the river protected from floods.

July 29

The Mail states that the Otaki Maoris have lately taken a great interest in ping pong, and have now formed a club. Several of the natives show considerable skill at the game, and will compete at the tournament to be held in Otaki this week.

August 1

A fire at the Otaki Post and Telegraph Office destroyed the whole of the contents, including furniture and effects belonging to the postmaster, and records of the office. It is estimated it will cost a thousand pounds to erect and to fit up new premises. Tait's furniture was insured for £150 in the South British office and the piano for £40. The safe appears to be in good condition, and the contents should be little the worse.

August 22

A new industry is about to be established in Otaki, viz., that of supplying kindling wood in large quantities. The plant will cost about £100. The wood-chopping machine will be worked by a 10-h-p. oil engine.

September 30

Mr W. Jenkins commonly known as "Bill" Jenkins - one of the oldest pioneer settlers on this coast - died peacefully at his residence, Otaki, in the early hours of Friday morning. Deceased has been ailing for some considerable time, having broken up in health some two years or more ago, and for some little time it was known that the end was not far off. Death was due to a general break-down, owing to old age. The late Mr Jenkins was born in Kent, England, and arrived in New Zealand in 1830, and has resided here ever since—the greater portion of the time at Otaki and neighbourhood. So far we have been unable to ascertain his exact age, but he was somewhere in the neighbourhood of 85 years. For years after his arrival in the colony he followed whaling pursuits and he had many dealings with the Natives in the times of the great Rauparaha, with whom the deceased was intimately acquainted. Mr Jenkins distinguished himself during the stranding of the City of Auckland at the

mouth of the Otaki river some thirty odd years ago, by gallantly assisting in the rescue of a large number of immigrants from the vessel, and on many other occasions has lent valuable assistance. In times of shipwreck and boating accidents. He was a noted jockey, and mounted in races even when quite an old man. Deceased was a most active and vigorous man, and must have had an iron constitution, for despite the hardships he endured, he possessed extraordinary strength for a man of his great age, and even up to within three or four years of his death frequently walked many miles at a brisk pace, and could do a hard day's work in keeping with many very much his junior in years. Deceased was married twice, his first wife being a native. His present wife is sister of Mr A. Garment and Mrs H McDonald, snr., of Horowhenua. He leaves three or four children as the result of the first marriage, and nine sons and four daughters by his second wife

November 1

Whitebait is very plentiful in the Otaki and Waikanae rivers, large quantities being taken regularly, mostly for local consumption, though a fair quantity is sent to Wellington and elsewhere.

November 7

W. and G. Noble, butchers at Otaki, were fined £4 on Wednesday for breaches of the Slaughtering and Inspecting Act, 1900, including a charge of feeding pigs on raw offal. The information was laid by Mr Duncan, Stock Inspector, and during the hearing of the case he indicated that the Stock Department intended to press for heavy penalties in future in similar cases.

November 10

At the Otaki S.M. Court a butcher was up for allowing swine to feed on offal which had not been boiled, for allowing swine to wander within fifty yards of his slaughter-house, for keeping meat, etc., in a putrid state in his slaughter-house. He was fined £1 and costs on each of the three charges. In the last case defendant admitted that the beef had been hanging there for over a week!

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Media Muse

By Manakau's Tom Frewen

Politicians and journalists, living together in a parallel universe, are rapidly drifting away from us ordinary folk out here in the real world.

So engrossed are they in their chatter and live breaking-news, they think the election was all about them, its result useful only to confirm the accuracy of their own polls, predictions, speculations, analyses and punts made prior.

This time there were more polls than ever before – around half a dozen – as media outfits and lobby groups jumped on the hoopla bandwagon. Ostensibly aimed at a better-informed electorate, the polls actually had four purposes. While providing a snapshot of political opinion at a moment in time, they had a money-making promotional and marketing role for their sponsors. For the two television channels, the results of the polls provided news stories for their bulletins as well as attracting larger audiences for their advertisers.

Less obvious was the role played by polls as a feedback loop in which output influenced input, helping party strategists plot campaign moves. Polling data that reveals public alarm at rising crime, for instance, can be a signal to turn up the volume on the party's law-and-order policy. For journalists, movements in the poll results fed into their two main 'narratives': politics as a battle; and elections as a race.

An insight into how differently political reporters view elections from inside their parallel universe is revealed in these comments from TVNZ's deputy political editor, Maiki Sherman.

"Every political journalist looks forward to the election and, if they don't, they need to get a new job," Sherman told Stuff's Sarah Nealon in an interview published

online on Thursday 28 September.

"This is our Olympics. This is the highlight of any parliamentary term.

"We look forward to this every three years because it's a lot of fun and it's also hugely important."

A lot of fun? In the real world, regular and free elections are the chief point of difference between democracies and dictatorships and tyrannies. They enable populations, exercising their right to vote, to change their rulers without bloodshed.

While apparently understanding the basic function of elections in the real world, Sherman also acknowledges the role played by citizens as voters, making the whole thing possible.

"We want people to get out and vote just as much as the politicians do, because we know how important this whole entire system is," she says.

But who is "we"? Batwoman? TVNZ? The Parliamentary Press Gallery? Political reporters in general?

But Stuff's Sarah Nealon had a different question: "What is the most stressful thing about covering an election?"

Sherman replies: "It's just non-stop. There is event after event. You're flying from one town to the other, one end of the country to the other and you're having to keep your eyes open and your ears open at all times. Because when our politicians are out in the field, you never know what's going to happen."

Must be exciting. In one of those interviews where the interviewee 'opens up' about their loves and hates, Sherman said she loves Parliament. Not the institution, but the building which she described as "stunning".

"I just think we're so lucky. I'm so lucky to be able to walk in here every day and this be my office. It feels so grand and it's home to such significant history in New Zealand."

Hates? "Running out of conditioner. The conditioner bottle always runs out before the shampoo bottle."

Oddly, when it comes to using a building for a graphic, both TVNZ and TV3 prefer the Beehive over Parliament House. For its Q+A political interview show on Sunday mornings, TVNZ has a montage of the Beehive and the Sky Tower as if they're in the same city.

Another of TVNZ's employees who loves elections is John Campbell.

"I think this will be my ninth election and I absolutely love them," Campbell told Stuff's Kerry Harvey in an interview published on Thursday 5 October.

"Thanks to technology," Campbell said, "there have been huge changes in the past 25 years in how votes are counted.

"When I first started, you were almost getting the results by carrier pigeon and didn't know what was happening until quite late. Last election, we basically knew a very small number of minutes after 7pm that Labour were going to run back home."

This election night would be different. "There's a whole lot of amazing contests," he said. "Is the Green Party going to have their best election ever? How many seats will Te Pāti Māori win?"

"And then, of course, there's Act. David Seymour was on his own only two elections ago, so how many MPs are they going to bring in and are they going to be enough to get National over the line? Is Winston going to get across 5%? This stuff is fascinating. It's absolutely fascinating."

Campbell saw the election coverage as a "show" that appeals to all age groups.

The show grandly called the '1News Your Vote 23 Election Night Special' went to air

at 7pm on Saturday 14 October. In the studio were chief correspondent John Campbell, political editor Jessica Mutch McKay and Q+A presenter Jack Tame.

Deputy political editor Maiki Sherman, senior political reporter Benedict Collins, business correspondent Katie Bradford, Pacific affairs correspondent Barbara Dreaver, Te Karere political reporter Te Okiwa Mclean and Māori affairs correspondent Te Aniwa Hurihanganui were reporting live.

The morning after the election, Tagata Pasifika, Q+A and Marae would also have comprehensive coverage featuring studio interviews with key political players.

A similar number of journalists and commentators were engaged to appear on TV3's parody of an election-night special, hosted by Patrick Gower, and you could watch live television on all three news websites: NZ Herald, Stuff and RNZ. If you wanted results from your own electorate, you had to go to the Electoral Commission's website and, at the same time, keep an eye on the national voting trends without all the blather.

On that Sunday morning, in the real world and on the other side of it, the All Blacks were playing Ireland in their Rugby World Cup quarter-final – a candidate for being the most exciting international rugby test ever screened on global television.

Back in the media's parallel universe, Jack Tame was winding up his last show before the election.

"That is Q+A for this week. Before we finish, just a couple of things to note. Next Sunday, instead of watching the All Blacks in their World Cup quarter-final, why not tune into the Q+A post-election special?"

Footnote: Q+A, which gets just under \$1 million a year in taxpayer funding, has a weekly audience of under 100,000. All Blacks' matches attract television audiences of up to 1.4 million. Just saying.

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ŌSLSC: Surf and Search & Rescue

BY SHELLY WARWICK



One of the important roles that Ōtaki Surf Lifesaving Club (ŌSLSC) members play in our community is providing a team for the Manawatū–Taranui Surf Search & Rescue (SAR) team. Along with ŌSLSC, three other

clubs – Levin–Waitarere, Foxton and Palmerston North–Himatangi – comprise this local SAR team. The team cover an area from Peka Peka to north of Tangimoana, and all the way over the Taranui Range to

the East Coast. Of the 24 members of the squad, eight are from ŌSLSC.

Our Surf SAR members are called out to marine rescues to support other services like the Police and Coastguard in search, rescue and recovery missions. They attend in a voluntary capacity. Our team were involved in rescues following cyclone Gabrielle in the Hawkes Bay and, in recent months, the Ōtaki members have assisted the Capital Coast team (whose area is from Peka Peka to Wellington's South Coast) in the recent search for the suspected missing person off Raumati Beach, and were put on standby for the missing Ōtaki woman.

Other members of the squad travelled to Wairoa on the East Coast last week to support the Hawkes Bay squad in providing safety for the Police national dive squad in the Mohaka River. In the past two years the squad has provided 10 days of river safety support for the dive squad.

The ŌSLSC have a close and supportive relationship with its SAR squad members, who are also club lifeguards. Without the wider club's support the squad members wouldn't hold the strong reputation it does. The wider club support included a huge turnout to help Surf SAR members decontaminate their gear post Cyclone Gabrielle, and also allows for the use of the club equipment for call-outs. An acknowledgement must go to the wider club and to Rob Bigwood who has spearheaded the set up of this squad. Rob is also a very experienced Land SAR member of many decades and imparts a wealth of knowledge and inspiration to club members to become involved in this very important community service.

If you are interested in joining or supporting our wonderful club you can go to <https://www.otakisurfclub.co.nz/>

Ōtaki Sergeant wins major award

BY FRANK NEILL

Ōtaki Sergeant Phil Grimstone's first reaction when he received an email from Commissioner Coster congratulating him on receiving the Woolf Fisher award, he thought it was a mistake.

Phil was one of 12 recipients to be recently awarded a prestigious Woolf Fisher Fellowship for 2024.

"My first reaction was that there must have been a mistake and that the email was for somebody else and had been sent to me in error," Phil says.

"It wasn't until I opened the personalised letter attached to the email that I realised that it was for me.

"Fortunately, I was alone at the station, so I had some time to digest the enormity of the award and keep my emotions in check.

"There aren't too many genuine surprises in life anymore, but this was certainly one I will never forget."

Established in 2017, the programme, for both constabulary and non-constabulary employees, rewards dedication and outstanding contributions to New Zealand Police and the communities they serve.

Each Fellowship comprises funding for international travel for up to eight weeks, which will include a course of study.

"Having researched the history of the Woolf Fisher Fellowship it is an incredible honour to be a recipient and it will be a highlight of my career," Phil says.

"The award ceremony was a memorable morning, and I was lucky enough to have my family in attendance.

"My mother missed my graduation in 2003 as she was living overseas, so to have her

at Police National Headquarters and the ceremony was a proud moment.

"I asked my 11-year-old son what his favourite part was, and he said the samosas were yum, so there is a salute to the caterers."

Phil says he is eternally grateful for whomever nominated him for the award, and that taking the time to recognise each other's work is important.

"The nomination process requires dedicated thought and effort, so I am very humbled that somebody thinks enough of what I do in the community and youth space to take the time to submit the nomination," Phil says.

"They have given me the gift of time with my family and creation of memories I would never have been able to have without the award."

"Phil is described as an extraordinary, authentic and compassionate leader with a genuine commitment to staff development," the award citation says.

"Colleagues say Phil's leadership has led to morale skyrocketing, with staff feeling so valued they volunteer to change shifts and provide cover, for everyone's safety.

"Phil has also brought innovation to Police by developing a successful inter-agency risk assessment and response model in the family harm space."

Phil has been with the Police in Ōtaki for eight years, the last five years as the Sergeant in charge.

His community involvement includes coaching sport. He coaches the junior Horowhenua–Kāpiti representative cricket



Sergeant Phil Grimstone (centre) receiving his award from the Woolf Fisher Trust Chair Sir Noel Robinson (left). Police Commissioner Andrew Coster is standing to the right of Phil.

team as well as coaching Levin Old Boys junior cricket team. He also coaches Football for the Levin Association Football Club.

Phil and his family are planning to visit a few places with the international travel part of the Fellowship, including the United States and Ireland next year.

Phil says the Twin Towers terrorist attack occurred while he was going through the application process for Police and the bravery of the fire and police personnel was so inspiring.

"Visiting the 9/11 memorial was on my bucket list and is something I may have the opportunity to go and do," he says.

"My wife and I have been together 22 years and she's supported me through my career while raising our boys, so being able to share this experience with her is a gift."

Recognising great work is an important part of positive workplace culture and Phil has a few words of encouragement for staff about acknowledging each other's work.

"Initially I was embarrassed to be awarded this Fellowship because I immediately thought about all the extremely talented Police staff, especially within Investigations and Tactical Response," Phil says.

"We all have colleagues who do fantastic things for Police, but also for the community in their own time. They are all deserving of recognition so that's why speaking up and sharing their awesome work is so important.

"It is a life-changing award that many of our great people deserve. I was just fortunate enough that somebody took the time to nominate me."

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