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Kite Festival a soaring success

BY FRANK NEILL



The 2024 Ōtaki Kite Festival “was absolutely stunning – roll on 2025,” Festival Director Kirsty Doyle says.

As well as attracting a record of around 25,000 people over the two days – 17 and 18 February – it also attracted a record number of kite flyers.

“We had about 50 flyers and the people emptied their kite bags, which they have never done before, which was amazing” Kirsty says.

As a result more than 100 kites flew in the sky above Ōtaki beach.

The festival also attracted seven international kite flyers from Australia and Germany, another first for the festival, which was hosted by the Ōtaki Promotions Group.

With the poorer weather, the first day was quieter, although the wind on the Saturday was

ideal for kite flying.

However with the stunning sunshine on the Sunday, it was “diabolically busy. There were people everywhere.”

The kite festival “is gaining an awful lot of momentum,” Kirsty says.

That included interest from New Zealand and overseas media.

For example, Sky featured a show on the festival and there was a live segment on the AM Show “which was awesome.”

As well as the big array of stalls and food trucks, the festival also featured two days of live performances on the Zeal stage.

Zeal Kāpiti put together the talent, which included the famous Ōtaki singer Tui Soul, and Power Cut, a band of Ōtaki College students.

Taiko drummers, Kāpiti band Elemental, Mia Nin, James Stent, Ciorstiadh, the Shed Project, Elodie and band, and Shekayna also featured.

Ōtaki “was essentially in gridlock” during the weekend, and Kirsty pays tribute to the Ōtaki community and Go Traffic Management for how well this was managed during the weekend.

“We could not do it without everyone in the community being so accommodating.

“And Go Traffic Management did a stunning job with our road closure.”

Their traffic control was both timely and effective.

“They were superb. They were smiling from 7:30am to 5:30pm,” Kirsty says.

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Te Horo Talk
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ed Covid-19 vaccine in time for winter

updated vaccines in time for next winter season. “We will share more of that as we get closer to the end of the year,” says MacCallum. “We’re working with the suppliers, MacCallum, and Health New Zealand. “Te Horo One, to ensure New Zealanders have access to the Covid-19 XBB.1.5 vaccine in time for people to protect themselves and their whānau ahead of winter,” says MacCallum. “We understand people are interested in who will have access to the Covid-19 vaccine.”

disease threats: Vibrio
The P2 Health Collective have been named as the centre of the Ōtaki Health sector for the future. 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, expert advice and assistance.

Health & Wellbeing
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Education
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ŌTAKI HERITAGE
Te Whare Pouhere Taonga o Ōtaki

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ŌTAKI MAIL MADNESS

Yes you do have a lovely voice for a welder, but if you clean your visor you will see it actually says **wedding singer**



Ōtaki Mail

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Buying your first home

BY FLEUR HOBSON

Buying your first home can be an exciting experience. It can also be daunting because there is a lot you will need to think about. Some of the important questions you will need to consider are:

- What home price can I, or we, afford?
- How much deposit will I need to be able to get a mortgage?
- How much will my mortgage repayments be?
- How much will I have to pay in rates?
- How much will I need to pay for maintenance?

And there are more questions you will need to think about too.

A number of the areas you will need to consider will be the same for everyone who is buying a property.

That includes checking the property carefully before you buy.

Is this really the home you want? Is the seller or their real estate agent aware of any problems?

Checking a property also includes going to the council to get a LIM report. A LIM report can give you information about a lot of things, such as whether there is any building work that does not have proper consent, or whether there has been pollution of the land, to name just two things.

Getting a builder's report on the property is also an excellent idea. That can alert you to any issues, such as structural soundness or moisture problems.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and

Employment (MBIE) has an extensive checklist to help home-buyers make informed decisions. It is at <https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/your-rights-and-obligations/homeowner-rights-and-obligations/buying-a-house/>.

One thing that is very important to do before you sign an agreement – called a Sale and Purchase Agreement – to buy a property is to see a good property lawyer for expert advice.

As well as giving you quality advice, a lawyer can help you amke sure there are no unexpected hurdles on the path ahead of you.

A good first step to take, even before you begin to look at houses, is to look at your finances to see what you can afford to buy.

Many banks have mortgage calculators on

their websites. Using these can help you work out what you can afford.

There is also assistance available for first home buyers.

Kainga Ora can provide a “First Home Grant” (formerly called a “Homestart Grant”) of up to \$10,000 for people who are eligible.

First-home-buyers can also use their KiwiSaver funds to either buy their first home or buy land to build their first home on.

Those who are eligible can apply to withdraw all their KiwiSaver funds towards a home or land, except for: \$1,000; any amount transferred from an Australian complying superannuation scheme (if applicable); and any Government contributions received during any period

you lived overseas and did not have permanent residence in New Zealand.

More information about First Home Grants is on the Kainga Ora website at kaingaora.govt.nz/home-ownership/first-home-grant and information on KiwiSaver withdrawlas is at kaingaora.govt.nz/home-ownership/kiwisaver-first-home-withdrawal.

Some first-home-buyers have family members that can either provide them a loan or a gift that can go towards the purchase. Yet another option is to organise a loan from a bank.

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

HOBSON MILLS LAW

INCORPORATING SUSIE MILLS LAW

282 MILL ROAD, ŌTAKI

PHONE 06 364 7190

Sponsored content

The Rongoā Space

BY JOANNE HAKARAIA-OLSON

Rongoā of the Month HOHERE

Houhere or Hoihere, commonly referred to as the Lacebark tree, is a native tree capable of reaching heights between 10 to 12 meters. Characterised by a slender trunk and a compact, spherical canopy adorned with numerous slender branches, this tree features smooth grey-brown bark and thin, green, slightly serrated leaves.

The Lacebark derives its name from the intricate lace-like pattern found on the plant's inner bark.

The tree is highly esteemed for its ornamental significance, as it blooms abundantly with white flowers during the late summer months emitting a delightful fragrance that the bees and birds love.

Habitat

Houhere thrives in various environments across the country, including coastal, lowland, and upland forests, as well as scrub and riparian areas. Flourishing in well-drained soils, it exhibits adaptability to varying light conditions, accommodating both sunny and shaded settings.

Rongoā

Within the ancient tapestry of Māori lore, the revered Houhere tree emerges as a healer of ailments, a weaver of tools, and a bearer of

beauty. Its bark, a remedy for afflictions like diarrhea and dysentery, also transforms into sturdy ropes, intricate baskets and fishing nets.

Houhere shares the therapeutic properties of the mallow family by offering alleviation from inflammation and irritation. It provides soothing properties, particularly beneficial for the digestive tract, respiratory system, and mucous membranes, encompassing areas such as the eyes and ears. A wairākau made from this plant can be ingested to alleviate gastrointestinal discomfort. Notably, it serves as an excellent remedy for itchy eyes caused by hay fever when applied as a poultice. To maintain the sustainability of the rākau, the leaves can be used to make a poultice instead of the bark.

The primary internal use of Houhere traditionally was as a demulcent. The wairākau was a vital remedy used to counteract the effects of poisoning from the katipō spider, karaka berry, or tutu. It induced sweating in the poisoned individual, aiding in the elimination of toxins from the body. A stronger form of the wairākau was prepared to help reduce fever.

Houhere is a very beautiful and graceful tree. I always look forward to the flowering of this native as it brings in the bees. Where she is growing on my property I have to climb to smell her aroma, but it's always a buzz to hear the bees surrounding her. The

bees are very protective of her nectar and build like an energetic shielding wall to keep outsiders like me out; it's almost like an invisible hive. I have been observing this wānanga for a few years now and wait patiently for the event to come around year after year. There's still so much for me to learn and understand...but I'm patient.



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BY VIVIENNE BAILEY

Te Horo Hall plans move forward

A steel-portal earthquake strengthening solution for Te Horo’s heritage hall is to be undertaken by Crowe Construction & Associates (CCA), with work planned to start late 2024. The firm’s recent work includes the upgrading and refurbishing of Toi MAHARA gallery, Waikanae.

The total operating budget to strengthen the building, insurance, regulatory engineering, and inspection costs is more than \$350,000. Funding planned by the Te Horo Hall Society committee includes the hall’s own contribution of \$120,000 plus accrued interest from past funding, hall hire and rentals, community fundraising (raffles, quiz nights), and private donations from locals and those with strong connections to the hall. Possible institutional donors such as the Lotteries Commission will also be approached.

The hall logo has been updated by local resident, Nikki Lundie of Nel Design. It replaces the charming watercolour original by Kāpiti Coast artist, Dana Jackson. Work

is also underway on a website to improve the booking system and extend communications.

Sutton Road sunflowers

During spring 2023, Louise and Davey Cooper of Sutton Road, Te Horo, sowed thousands of sunflower seeds in an experiment, “to see what would happen.” The couple harvested their golden crop last month and distributed blooms locally (to points of sale) with all proceeds from the sales going to charities including the Ōtaki Surf Lifesaving Club during the Kite Festival and Hato Hone St John. Stems of sunflowers were sold at Te Horo School, Books & Co, Farmlands, Māoriland Hub and Faith Farm Fresh Milk Outlet.

Serene Summer Bliss Retreat

A day of soul recharging, serenity and self-discovery is promised at the Serene Summer Bliss Retreat at Winemaker’s Daughter, Te Horo, Sunday 3 March 10.00am to 3.30pm. A blend of yoga, nature and wellness with Kāpiti Coast hosts, Lauren Appleton – nutritionist, yoga instructor and wellness

coach – and Lucy Edwards – natural therapist, nutritionist and wellness expert – is combined with live music, a plant-based lunch, nature walks, an organic tea-making workshop, meditation and relaxation. For further information: info@lucynutrition.co.nz

Drinks and Nibbles

The monthly BYO catch-up with neighbours and newcomers to Te Horo. Te Horo Hall, Friday 1 March 5.30pm. Bring a plate of nibbles to share and something to drink.





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Ōtaki kite artist flies the world

BY VIVIENNE BAILEY

Ōtaki artist Yvonne de Mille flies her kites world-wide. Recently back from five months touring Europe, including walking the Camino Primitivo in Spain –the first pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela – USA and Asia, it was India, the traditional home of kite making and kite festivals (Uttarayan) that truly reflected the magic of kite making and the vibrancy and joyful enthusiasm of kite flying.

“India has a long history of kite making,” she says. “They use bamboo for the framework, special, tissue-thin paper and glass strings – really sharp pieces.”

The traditional glass strings, known as manja, are made from small glass shards and Yvonne tells me they can be dangerous, potentially deadly, if a stray string winds around someone’s neck.

During her more than thirty years of kite making and kite flying Yvonne has had sponsored invitations from various international kite festivals, but 2024 was a little different.

“This year I was also invited to the wedding of the festival organiser’s daughter,” she says. “It was amazing, a huge event. I was treated like royalty.”

The four-day international festival, traditionally held in Kerala, Western India (in January) was launched by the flying of a tri-colour balloon, followed by a multitude of kites of various hues, shapes and sizes from more than 50 countries.

“Hundreds of thousands of kites and flyers attend these festivals,” Yvonne explains. “There are heaps of prizes with a trophy awarded at the finish.”

A feature of this visit was the Tamil mayors’ processions where participants walk for hours, often in extreme heat.

“I carried the New Zealand flag. It was like the Olympics,” she laughs. “With hundreds of countries all in national dress.”

During her visit to the USA, at Washington DC Yvonne flew her kites at Long Beach (Peninsula); and later, in Vancouver, she honoured the memory of long-time kite flyer and friend Ray Bethel by flying her kite in a local park he too had flown in.

“At ninety years of age, he was still flying his kites,” Yvonne says, adding “and kites pull really hard, you need strength. It’s a sport as much as an art.”

Describing her own kites as “freestyle” Yvonne says that means they are asymmetrical, therefore trickier, more challenging to fly, “most kite makers tend to use shapes they know will fly.”

She uses brightly coloured, hand-dyed silks to make banner kites – many of them huge – and uses the strong ripstop nylon fabric to build frames from spiral-wound fibre glass. Her kites are machine sewn and, depending on size and complexity, can reflect hundreds of hours of work.

Although she works in various media such as painting, printmaking, installation art and sculpture, it is kite making and kite flying that is Yvonne’s passion. It was this, and a love of community, that inspired her to instigate the annual, hugely popular Ōtaki Kite Festival in 2013, which continues to bring international kite makers, local businesses, children and members of the wider community together.

right: Yvonne's kite flying in honour of Ray Bethel, Vancouver, Canada



below: Yvonne de Mille at Kerala, India, kite festival earlier this year.

images supplied by Yvonne de Mille



Popular ‘Movies in the Park’ kicks off Parks Week in Kāpiti

Kāpiti Coast District Council is kicking off Parks Week with their popular Movies in the Park on Saturday 2 March at Waikanae Park from 4pm.

Kāpiti Coast District Council Parks, Open Space and Environment Manager Gareth Eloff says Parks Week runs nationwide between 2 and 10 March, with Movies in the Park a popular way for Kāpiti to recognise how parks and open spaces positively influence wellbeing.

“Movies in the Park is in its fourth year and a major highlight of Council’s summer events calendar,” says Mr Eloff.

“Following a heavily contested community vote, we’ll be screening two movies on the night. Despicable Me will start at 5pm and

Top Gun Maverick hits the screen at 7.10pm. “It’s a fun evening out for the whole whānau and a great way for the community to connect. The event is supported by Voyle & Co Realty and Zeal and includes fundraising food stalls for Kāpiti Softball and Rugby Clubs.

“There’ll be an ice cream truck, slushies, and coffee available to purchase and Council’s Waka Kori play trailer with equipment to spark the imagination and creative play.

“Waikanae Park also has playground equipment, which we recognise is reaching the end of its life. We’ll have staff available on the night to hear our community’s thoughts on how we can provide fun,

adventurous, and safe play and hangout spaces here in the future.

“Waikanae Park is one of 49 playgrounds here in Kāpiti. We also have 16 sports grounds, and numerous natural reserves, rivers, beaches, and over 100 kilometres of walking, cycling and bridleway tracks and trails that are free for everyone to use. You’ll also find exercise equipment at some

of our parks - no gym membership required! “So why not join us on Saturday night, and then try out another open space on Sunday 3 March for Children’s Day, or even one new one every day of Parks Week!

“Please just remember to care for our environment, which we also serve to protect.”

source: KCDC



Ōtaki Update

February 2024

How would you like to be represented?

Following the decision to create a Māori Ward last year, we'll soon be asking for your thoughts about our representation arrangements – that is, our ward and community board boundaries, the number of Councillors and community board members we have, and how the new Māori ward should be incorporated into Council's representation arrangements.

A ward is a geographical area, defined by population and communities of interest across the district. In Kāpiti, we currently have four general wards with seven elected Councillors and three districtwide Councillors elected by all voters of the district. In total this equates to ten Councillors. We also have one Mayor.

In the 2025 elections, people on the Māori electoral roll will be able to vote in the new Māori ward instead of a general ward and people on the general electoral roll would vote in their general ward instead of the Māori ward. Both Māori and general electoral roll voters would still vote for the Mayor, districtwide Councillors, and community board representatives for the area they live in.

We haven't decided how the Māori ward and its new Māori ward Councillor will be added to our existing representation arrangements. However, our early engagement will provide you with three concepts to consider:

- 1. Add the Māori ward Councillor to our current structure and increase the number of Councillors to 11.
- 2. Replace one districtwide Councillor with a Māori ward Councillor and retain the current number of Councillors.
- 3. Replace one general ward Councillor with a Māori ward Councillor and retain the current number of Councillors.

We'd also like to know your thoughts on how ward Councillors, including the new Māori ward Councillor, could connect with our five community boards and what else you'd like us to consider about our existing arrangements.

Your feedback will help shape Council's initial representation arrangement proposal that we'll come back to you for further feedback on around July/August.

► **Find out more at:**
haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/RepresentationReview



Movies in the Park

Our annual open-air cinema is the best way to see out another spectacular Kāpiti summer, so grab a picnic rug and settle in for a fabulous evening beneath the stars at Waikanae Park on Saturday 2 March.

With a session for kids and another for teens and up, there's something for all the whānau.

- 5.00pm – Despicable Me**
- 7.20pm – Top Gun Maverick.**

Our Waka Kori play trailer will keep the tamariki entertained before the movies kick off, so come a little earlier to find your spot.

Limited accessible parking and viewing spots for those with mobility needs are available by registering through play@kapiticoast.govt.nz.



New Reservoir in the pipeline

Three new pipelines are being laid as part of the Ōtaki Reservoir construction. The five-month pipeline installation will see inlet and outlet pipes connect the reservoir to the County Road pump station along Te Manuao Road. An overflow pipe will run from the reservoir to the stormwater network in Pohatu Lane.

The Te Manuao Road pipeline work will be laid in a trench along the northern side of the road, closest to homes with even numbers. Traffic management is in place and detours may be necessary at times.

Our crew are working as quickly as possible and will make all efforts to minimise disruption. Please take extra care when you're driving in the area.

► **Keep up to date or find out more at:**
kapiticoast.govt.nz/otaki-reservoir



What's your vision for our Kāpiti Coast economy?

We're working in partnership with the Economic Development Kotahitanga Board to refresh the Kāpiti Coast Economic Development Strategy 2020–23.

We're building on consultation we've had with local businesses as well as conversations we've had with the community around employment and income. We've identified key focus areas and some actions that will help position us for a vibrant, thriving, and sustainable future.

These are detailed in our Economic Development Direction of Travel document, which we encourage you to read and let us know your thoughts by 15 March.

► **For more information visit:**
haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz

Ōtaki Update

February 2024



Photo: Well designed medium density housing improves the housing supply.

Affordable housing matters to Kāpiti

Access to suitable and affordable housing is pivotal to one of Kāpiti Coast District Council's core long-term goals – a resilient community that feels safe and connected and has support for basic needs.

A warm safe home is something many take for granted but, like other parts of Aotearoa New Zealand and the world, we're facing an unprecedented housing shortage.

The housing shortage is causing stress for many people. It's not just about homelessness, although that is certainly the experience of some in our community. Rather, we don't always have the right housing in the right places for peoples' individual needs.

A lack of options means people are increasingly trapped in unsuitable accommodation. It skews the whole housing system: we see large families living in tiny motel rooms or transitional housing, while elderly people rattle around in their former family home, unable to downsize in their familiar neighbourhoods near friends and family.

Housing problems have a domino effect, causing or compounding other stresses on people, like paying essential bills, accessing educational or work opportunities, and poor mental and/or physical health.

It's all interconnected, but housing is often the first domino to fall. It affects our identity, wellbeing, and security, and contributes to issues that can span generations.

In 2022, Council published a report giving a comprehensive picture of the state of housing need in our district and asked in our Long-term Plan if we should take a bigger role in housing. The answer was a clear 'yes'.

This view was reinforced when we consulted on our 2022 housing strategy. As a result, we've been working on strengthening productive partnerships with iwi, central government, the private sector, community housing providers and the community.

Our progress

We've made progress over the past two years, such as:

- partnering with Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki, landowners, and developers to successfully access a \$29.3 million government contribution to roading and water infrastructure to support housing needs in Ōtaki;
- starting work on setting up an affordable housing trust to provide more affordable rental and ownership units in the district;
- reviewing our older persons housing portfolio in readiness for engaging with you soon through the Long-term Plan on how we can provide a better service and more homes for older people in need;
- supporting providers to establish additional transitional housing services in our district; and
- improving our ability to help to respond to homelessness in the district in partnership with others.

Official statistics on the number of people waiting for social housing don't necessarily provide a complete picture of the true need out in our community. Community and personal wellbeing rely on getting housing right, and this remains a priority for Council.

► **Read 'Not Just a House, A Life' at kapiticoast.govt.nz/housing-needs-assessment**

We’re consulting on a dedicated provider for older persons’ housing

Council provides some accommodation for eligible older people in need of affordable housing, with 118 units in 10 locations across Kāpiti. But the need increasingly outstrips supply and we have long wait lists. Anecdotally, we know many people in need don’t bother applying as they think they have little chance of getting in.

We’ve been reviewing how we can do better in this space, starting with understanding the current situation. We found existing Council housing for older people has a range of limitations:

- Some tenants may have complex needs that require specialist help but we’re not set up or funded to provide social, emotional, and physical support services.
- Our existing housing isn’t suitable for full wheelchair access and functionality.
- Our complexes may not be in the best location for access to shops, medical centres, and government services.

To build more affordable housing for older people we need access to subsidised capital and rental assistance, but councils aren’t eligible for central government’s income-related rental subsidy.

Instead, ratepayers subsidise our service, with Council rents set at 30 percent of our tenants’ income. This covers 55–80 percent of the operating cost of the portfolio.

We don’t see this as financially sustainable so we’ve been working closely with our tenants, community housing providers, and special interest groups to explore how we can meet our objective of delivering more and better housing for older people.

The review has suggested changes to our operating model may hold the key, so councillors have decided to consult with the community as part of the Long-term Plan consultation in March and April. We’ll provide more details on the options before then.

► [Read more at kapiticoast.govt.nz/older-persons-housing-review](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/older-persons-housing-review)



Council's doing more in housing

Council’s role in housing has primarily been to build and service the roads, pipes, and community facilities needed to support housing. We’ve always had a planning and regulatory role, and we own and manage 118 older persons’ housing units at 10 locations across the district.

We got clear direction from our community to do more to respond to the housing crisis when we consulted on the 2021 Long-term Plan and 2022 housing strategy, and our 2023 age-friendly approach identifies housing as one of the key things we need to foster healthy and active ageing.

We know there is no silver bullet; there needs to be focus across several fronts, so Council’s role is multifaceted. We’re doing more to:

- make it easy (as a regulator and service provider)
- share the load (by partnering with others) and
- advocate on behalf of our district (including for central government support and funding).

► [Read more about Council’s role in housing at kapiticoast.govt.nz/housing](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/housing)



Older people most affected by housing need

Research has shown older people are amongst those most likely to be affected by a housing need, and we know Kāpiti has a high and growing proportion of people over 65 years of age (26 percent compared to 16 percent nationally).

Older people who can’t afford to buy into a retirement village are affected by the high cost of rentals, a shortage of smaller accessible units, and lack of secure tenancies.

In Kāpiti home ownership rates are declining, and an increasing number of people aged 65+ are starting to rent rather than own their home.

Research also indicates the largest growth in renters over the next 30 years will be aged 65+. The portion of Kāpiti renters aged 65+ is predicted to increase by 104% (1,820 households) over 30 years.

We have a plan to address this. We’ll be consulting with you as part of the Long-term Plan on some options for improving the operating model for older persons housing.

► [Read more about being 65+ in Kāpiti at kapiticoast.govt.nz/strategies#age-friendly](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/strategies#age-friendly)



Affordable housing trust could help

Housing need is complex, and not solely the responsibility of one organisation or sector.

A key action out of our 2022 housing strategy was to look at how we improve our partnerships to help more people access affordable housing in our district.

Setting up an independent ‘affordable housing entity’ soon emerged as one of our councillors’ priorities for the first year of the term. Council plans to confirm the final structure and membership in early 2024.

The entity could also become an option for managing our older persons housing portfolio, if it was decided that the portfolio should be transferred to a community housing provider.

Council will hear a report on the affordable housing trust at its 29 February meeting. Tune in online or read the report when the agenda is published.

► [Find council meeting agendas and watch the livestream at kapiticoast.govt.nz/meetings](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/meetings)

Titans collect huge haul of medals

BY FRANK NEILL



above: The Ōtaki Titans team at the Manawātū Age Group Championships

The Ōtaki Titans Swimming Team came away with a huge collection of podium finishes, including 12 victories at the Manawātū Age Group Championships. Kokoro Frost picked up three first placings in the event, held at the Lido Pool in Palmerston North on 3 and 4 February. His wins came in the 50 metres and 100 metres backstroke and the 50 metres butterfly. Kokoro swam in four events and finished second in the 100 metres butterfly, giving him top places in every event he contested.

Greer Winter won two of her races, the 50 metres and 100 backstroke, and finished second in the 50 metres freestyle. Noah Ireland-Spicer also won two races, the 50 metres and 100 metres freestyle. He also claimed four third placings, in the 50 metres and 100 metres backstroke, and the 50 metres and 100 metres butterfly. Phoebe Nelson was yet another Titan to win two races when she finished first in the 50 metres and 100 metres freestyle. Imogen Waite claimed four podium spots. She won her 50 metres backstroke, came second in the 100 metres backstroke, and

was third in the 50 metres butterfly and 50 metres freestyle. Imogen’s brother Henry hit the podium with a third place finish in the 50 metres butterfly. Amanda Gouldsbury was another Titan winner when she came home first in the 200 metres butterfly. Kokoro followed up his outstanding performances at the Manawātū Age Group Championships with two good performances at the World Swimming Championships in Doha, Qatar.

Representing Samoa, Korokoro competed in two events, the 50 metres and 100 metres butterfly. He finished in the top 50 in the world in the 50 metres event and swam his second fastest time in the 200 metres race. Competing in the World Championships “was really good,” he says. “I really enjoyed it. “I’m very grateful for the support of Ōtaki. Your support got me to Doha,” he adds.

Winning post-Christmas starts for Ōtaki tennis teams

BY FRANK NEILL

Ōtaki 1, the defending Wellington Mixed A grade tennis champions, kicked off their post-Christmas season with a 6–2 win over Wellington Tennis Club on 3 February. The team of Craig Eves, Leonie Campbell, Hannah Grimmett, Tom Caines, Adam Shelton, Jodie Lawson and Jackie Gould won the Wellington Mixed A grade pre Christmas competition. This was the team’s third victory in a row, having won both the pre Christmas and post Christmas competitions in the 2022–23 season. The team was not so fortunate in its second match when they played Paraparaumu Beach 1 on 17 February however. In a closely contested encounter each team won three matches, with Paraparaumu taking the win on a countback after they won more games. Ōtaki’s number 2 mixed grade team also kicked off their post-Christmas season with a victory, beating Kilbirnie 2, 4–2. The team of Gary Quigan, Lilian Bramley, Dan West, Philip Grimmett and Teri Grimmett finished second in the pre Christmas Mixed C grade competition, winning promotion to the B grade. Ōtaki’s number 2 women’s doubles team had a winning start to the season too. Playing in the Wellington C grade competition they won their first encounter over Karori United Diamonds 3–1 on 30 January. They then defeated Ōtaki 1, 3–1, on 17 February. The Ōtaki Sports Club’s junior teams have also seen some good early post-Christmas results. The Hit & Misses team, playing in the Kapi Mana mixed A grade competition, defeated Paraparaumu Beach Volleyers 4–0 on 17 February.

The mixed C grade team, Ōtaki Māhuri won both its 2024 encounters. They defeated Paraparaumu Beach Drop Shots 4–2 on 10 February and went one better with a 5–1 victory over Waikanae

Beach Drop Shots on 17 February. Ōtaki Hikohiko was one of the few teams to play all three scheduled matches so far this year, winning two of them.

They defeated Whitby Silver 6–0 on 3 February, lost to Ngatitōa Orcas on a countback after the teams each won three matches on 10 February, and beat Churton Park 6–0 on 17 February.



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above: some of the scores of kites flying above Ōtaki Beach



above: tamariki enjoy the thrill of the roundabout at the festival



above: Power Cut, the band of Ōtaki College students, during their kite festival performance.

below: some of the crowd that listened to the music performances



below: the busy stalls at the kite festival





Gardening with

Garden tasks for March



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Flower garden

Keep watering during dry spells, especially your new plantings.

March is a good time to plant shrubs and ornamentals – soils should be moist enough and they'll have time to establish over winter.

Cut back existing perennials and plant new ones.

Keep dead-heading plants to prolong flowering.

Take cuttings of fuchsias and pelargoniums to pot up for winter and plant out in spring.

It's bulb planting time – plant daffodils, ranunculus, anemone, grape hyacinth, iris, freesias, spring flowering gladioli and other spring flowering bulbs – try to get bulbs in, either in containers or in the garden, by the end of autumn (tulips and hyacinths are best planted late April or early May).

Sow seeds of alyssum, linaria, sweet pea, calendula, hollyhock, delphinium, dianthus, godetia, honesty, candytuft, cornflower, gypsophila and cyclamen.

Plant out your favourite winter flowering seedlings, such as pansy, viola, primula, polyanthus, alyssum, poppies, calendula, cineraria, lobelia, stock and snapdragon.

Biennial seedlings such as foxgloves and Canterbury bells, that you want to flower next spring or summer, should also be planted out.

Fruit and vegetable garden

Pull out any summer herbs and vegetables that have finished producing and add to your compost.

March is an important month for planting winter veggies – prepare garden prior to planting with compost, general garden fertiliser and lime if necessary.

Potatoes, onions and kumara can be lifted and stored in a cool, dry place.

Sow seeds of carrots, parsnips, radish, lettuce, spinach, silverbeet, beetroot, swede, and turnip directly into the garden - they will need thinning later. Seeds of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and brussels sprouts are best sown in trays for planting out later.

Plant out seedlings of cabbage, beetroot, winter lettuce, brussel sprouts, silverbeet, spinach, carrots, cauliflower, leeks and broccoli.

Protect new plantings from snails and slugs with Quash and give them a good start by watering in and liquid feeding.

Citrus are heavy feeders – feed with citrus fertiliser for healthy, green leaves and better growth, flower and fruit.

Prune peach and nectarine trees.

Lawns

March and April are prime months for sowing lawn seed, whether repairing lawns or putting in new ones. There are less weed seeds waiting to germinate now, so lawn grasses can get growing without competition, forming an expanse of short grass to choke out new weeds by mid-spring.

Continue to keep the new lawn moist while seeds germinate and get established.

When mowing, use a high cut to encourage a thick, strong turf.

Second thoughts

Garden hygiene is extra important this month. Rain and autumn temperatures bring on a flush of weeds – it pays to deal with these promptly, even if you plan to take a break from veggie gardening over winter. Left to grow, they will produce unwanted seed to plague you at a later stage – they may also harbour overwintering pests and diseases.

Focus on European plums

The hardy plum is an attractive tree and the most easily grown of our stone fruits, fruiting well even with a lack of attention. A single tree can provide sufficient fruit for you and your neighbours (as well as the local bird population). It will fill your pantry with plum jam, plum sauce, plum chutney, and bottled plums as well as filling your fruit bowl with more fresh plums than the average family could ever eat in the season.

Synonymous with our long summer holidays, most plum varieties stem from two species, the Japanese plum, 'Prunus salicina' and the European, 'P. domestica.'

European plums have a long history of cultivation, and include the small, tart-tasting damson (English plum), a great jam-making plum and superb for chutneys and pickles, bottling, desserts and damson gin. The oval-shaped fruit has blue-black skin and yellow-green flesh - they can be eaten straight from the tree if left until just about to fall.

Although plums grow best in fertile, well-drained soil with plenty of additional compost, they will happily tolerate a wide range of soil conditions. An annual dressing of dolomite lime is of great benefit, especially on heavy soils.

Growth habits vary between the two species – the Japanese plum is a slightly larger, more pendulous tree than its cousin, which has an upright habit and flowers later in the season. The European plum is not so vigorous and more thought and care is required when developing their

framework, but thereafter pruning consists of shortening leading laterals by about 60cm and removing all inward-facing and crossing shoots. Their fruit is generally smaller and more variable in colour, like the greengage, a versatile wee plum that is reported to taste like pure nectar. Great-tasting straight from the tree, the fruit is also good for jam and desserts.

'Reine Claude de Bavay' is a self-fertile greengage plum widely grown in France, but is in fact a heritage plum from Belgium, dating back to 1832. The attractive green fruit is full of flavour and highly aromatic.


Worth the wait is the late-cropping 'Coe's Golden Drop,' a golden, deliciously-flavoured fruit that prefers a sunny, sheltered position to do really well – it can be pollinated with greengage or 'Reine Claude de Bavay.'

An early-eating European plum, 'Angela Burdett,' is a small to medium-sized, dark purple fruit with rich, sweet, yellow-green flesh. Mostly self-fertile it can be planted with a greengage to improve pollination.

Whether you eat them straight from your tree, or in sauces, bottled, frozen, in jams or jellies, plums are a good source of health-promoting minerals, such as iron, fluoride and potassium, and contain vitamins A, C and B – they're also a favourite with children. If you have room in your garden for a few trees (dwarf cultivars are often available), then you can enjoy fresh plums from Christmas until the end of March.



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the Ōtaki Mail

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

Razzle dazzle with Kangaroo Paws

Kangaroo paws are a beguiling lot. It's a combination of abundant blooming, the unique shape of their sculptural, tubular flowers, and the quirky coat of fine hairs on stems and flower heads, all of which lend these evergreen perennials (*Anigozanthus*) a distinctive, felted appearance (and a definite tactile appeal). The animal paw-shaped flowers (the apex opens into six 'claws.') are also a bird favourite.

Once a little tricky to grow in our climate of wet winter soils and cold temperatures, today's hybrids are a much more sturdy lot, and worthy of a home in even the smallest garden.

Flower colour combinations include lime green and red, gold and green, with many bright yellow and red hues, but there are also more subtle options. Foliage is somewhat grass-like and the various species can range in height from 0.3-1.8m.

These Aussie imports (native to the southwest of Western Australia) will endure coastal conditions such as harsh, salt-laden winds, and will tolerate moderately wet winters (they will put up with a little frost although prefer a frost-free spot). In summer they like to be hot and dry (in an open position), and most will tolerate drought although flowering will be prolonged with summer water.

Full sun will give optimum flowering, and for most species, very well-drained soil (even sandy or gravelly) is needed (although many modern hybrids are less fussy and more

soil tolerant). If you're concerned your garden isn't kangaroo paws perfect, try growing a smaller bush type in a container. They do surprisingly well grown this way if given the usual potted plant care.

Growing in pots also makes it easier to give them a favoured position such as a sunny, rain-sheltered porch or patio. Snails and slugs can be a problem (snails can shred younger leaves overnight), and kangaroo paws can also suffer from a fungus called 'ink disease,' which turns leaves black. Taller types (and many of the more recently bred hybrids) seem to be less susceptible. If ink disease strikes a plant, you'll need to remove all blackened leaves.

The best of the kangaroo paws for their resistance to this disease are the Bush Gems hybrids, mostly of compact size, with flowers ranging from yellow, gold and green through to orange, red and burgundy. 'Bush Heritage' is a small cultivar with flowers of burnt terracotta and olive green, and 'Bush Twilight' has prolific flowers in muted orange, yellow and green tones, appearing mainly in spring above dull green, very narrow leaves. Other popular varieties in the Series are 'Bush Glow,' a sunset red, and 'Bush Gold,' a golden yellow.

Have a go and mix these with gazanias, arcotis and *Strelitzia reginae* (bird of paradise) for a bit of razzle dazzle.



Ballerinas in the garden

The ballerina like blooms of a fuchsia plant can lift and brighten dark garden corners. Many of us may remember the large, flamboyant, double-flowered hybrids, lovers of dappled shade, that were popular in our grandparents' gardens, but advances in modern breeding have seen the development of fuchsias that tolerate sun, and varieties that flower over a longer period, as well as smaller varieties suitable for containers and baskets.

Named in honour of the German botanist, Leonhart Fuchs (1501-1566), the more than 100 species of fuchsia originate from lower and Central America, although there are species that are native to New Zealand. The native tree fuchsia, *kotukutuku* (*Fuchsia excorticata*) is a welcome food source for bees and native birds and is valued for its distinctive papery bark as well as its tiny flowers. This small tree can lose its leaves in colder areas during winter, but from spring through to midsummer, dainty chartreuse yellow and purple flowers appear – a pretty sight in the darkness of our native bush. A ground-hugging native option is 'Fuchsia procumbens, which has small, round leaves like *muehlenbeckia*, and tiny, creamy-yellow flowers in summer.

Fuchsias are not difficult to grow, providing you get the basics right. Keep them away from strong winds, and intense heat and cold, and make sure your soil is moist but not wet.

Feed in spring with a slow-release fertiliser – plants flower on the current season's growth so you'll need a fertiliser high in nitrogen to promote new growth.

Old shrubs can be cut back to almost ground level to renew the plant (in frosty areas, don't trim until after the threat of frost has passed).

Propagating fuchsias is super easy. Take your cuttings in summer and autumn, choosing non-flowering stems. The new, green stems that appear in summer after the first flush of flowers are ideal. Select stems about 10cm long with about three pairs of leaves. Trim off bottom leaves and put 5cm deep into propagating sand. Keep your cuttings moist and in a warm, well-lit place - roots should appear in a couple of weeks.

Fuchsias are also good topiary subjects. To create a standard, select an upright stem, remove all side branches and stake. When the stem is at the desired height, pinch out the top to encourage branching. Keep nipping the tips

off the side shoots until you have a full, rounded head then let it flower – a good topiary usually takes about two years to shape.

Slender and upright, 'Preston Guild' is a good choice where space is limited as in a narrow entrance – it produces hundreds of creamy-white and purple bell-shaped blooms that cascade elegantly down the plant. 'Black Prince' is a single, compact red and purple variety and, for a complete contrast, look for 'Marcus Graham,' a big, blowsy, double peachy-pink flowered plant.

A personal favourite is 'Gartenmeister Bronstedt' which produces large clusters of long, tubular, bright salmon-red flowers during summer and autumn. Densely covered with downy, bronze-green leaves with attractive, purplish undersides, it grows well in semi-shade or full sun, but needs shelter from all but light frosts.



all images supplied

Education: Te Tiriti workshops

BY FRANK NEILL

“You don’t have to be scared of Te Tiriti o Waitangi,” Te Huia Bill Hamilton told the Introductory Community Treaty of Waitangi Workshop, held at the Ōtaki Library on 26 January.

“It actually looks after you.

“It protects you,” Bill (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngā Rauru, Ngāti Raukawa) said.

“I always talk about Te Tiriti as being a peace treaty.

“It is the founding document of our state.

“It shapes our constitution and it shapes what we do.

“It belongs to all of us,” said Bill, who led the workshop.

Te Tiriti is “the promise of two peoples to take the best possible care of each other.”

What it does is “it confirms the tūrangawaewae status of the tangata whenua (people of the land, or the Māori people) and it endowed the tūrangawaewae status on the tau iwi (non-Māori).

“That is why the treaty belongs to all of us.”

“Tūrangawaewae is one of the most well-known and powerful Māori concepts,” Te Ara – The Encyclopaedia of New Zealand says.

“Literally tūrangā (standing place), waewae (feet), it is often translated as ‘a place to stand’.

“Tūrangawaewae are places where we feel especially empowered and connected.

“They are our foundation, our place in the world, our home,” Te Ara says.

He was speaking with a woman recently, Bill said, and she told him that because of The Treaty of Waitangi “she feared that Māori would take everything over.”

However, when he asked her what The Treaty provided she did not know.

Ignorance of Te Tiriti was also highlighted when he spoke about Te Tiriti to 17,000 people in 2002.

“The majority didn’t know much about The Treaty,” he said.

Yet, if you ask people if they have an opinion on the treaty, it is one hundred per cent.”

Despite this ignorance of what The Treaty actually says and actually provides, most people express fear about it.



above: Te Huia Bill Hamilton speaking at Te Tiriti o Waitangi workshop in Ōtaki

“What can we do to get rid of the fear?” Bill asked.

Early in his presentation Bill explained about the photograph that appeared on his Powerpoint slides.

It was, he said, a photo of his grandson.

“I do it for him,” Bill said.

National Playcentre Awareness Week 4–8 March

BY TRACEY HALL

The theme for this year’s annual National Playcentre Awareness Week is “Whānau Tupu Ngātahi Families Growing Together”.

A parent-led early childhood organisation, Playcentre has been operating in Aotearoa New Zealand for 83 years.

Naomi Morton’s 1993 essay best explains the origin of today’s more-than 400 Playcentres nationwide:

“Playcentre, as it became known from 1973, had its roots in the progressive educational ideas of the 1930s, which placed new emphasis on early childhood. Adult education organisations such as the Workers’ Educational Association (WEA) and the international New Education Fellowship (NEF) were to give both educational and financial support in the early years. During World War II many women were alone at home with young children. While on holiday together with their children in 1941, Joan Wood and Inge Smithells discussed the need to provide relief for mothers and companions for children. Back in Wellington, further discussion with Beatrice Beeby led to the opening later that year of nursery play centres in Karori and Kelburn.”

Playcentre continues to value the education of its adult members around early childhood learning; and the learning-through-play philosophy for the tamariki, which also aligns with the principles of Te Whāriki – the Early Childhood Curriculum. Belief that parents/guardians are best first teachers of children is also firmly held.

Playcentres also continue to provide vital social connection for adults and tamariki alike.

“Families growing together” has been the experience of many Ōtaki whānau over the past 70 years.

Only 13 years younger than the original “nursery play centres”, Ōtaki Playcentre was initiated by Enid Ross-Taylor and she and the other foundation parents utilised other buildings, including the then Wesley Youth Hall, before the centre moved to its current home at 169 Mill Road. The centre celebrated its 25th year at Mill Road in 1990 and a substantial historical record was created for it by Liz Jull,

Sue Ransfield and Thelma Pike at that time, which is available to read in the *Ōtaki Historical Journal* #14.

During Playcentre Awareness Week, 4–8 March, Ōtaki Playcentre will be visible in the Ōtaki Library’s community display space. Information about, and how to join, your local centre will be available. The display will be set up by Whaea Sue Barrett – originally a Playcentre parent, then legendary Ōtaki Kindergarten leader for 20-plus years, now returned to Playcentre with her mokopuna – and will also encourage visitors to respond to the question:

‘What did/does Playcentre mean to your whānau?’



Whaea Sue says, “We are hoping this will help jog people’s memories of their Playcentre experiences.” She hopes to gather as many stories and memories as possible. A key focus for this year’s 70th anniversary is to gather and collate more families’ stories of their times at Playcentre.

She hopes, too, that the display will inspire local networks to ensure that as many ex-Playcentre whānau as possible will become aware of Ōtaki Playcentre’s 70th anniversary celebration planned for July this year.

Connected whānau are encouraged to register their interest in attending the event – to be held Saturday 27 July, from 2pm, at the Playcentre on Mill Road – by emailing Sue Barrett (susan@kapitiisland.com). They’re also encouraged to share their memories of their Playcentre experience.

This can be done in next month’s display at the library; emailed to Sue Barrett; or shared at the event in July.

Playcentre

Seven Decades Strong!

Ōtaki Playcentre’s
70th Birthday Celebration
2pm, Saturday 27 July, 2024

Whānau are invited to register for the
70-year Anniversary of Ōtaki Playcentre.

Contact Sue Barrett
susan@kapitiisland.com
to register for the event.

Pass this notice on to others who
you think may be interested in attending.

“Whānau tupu ngātahi – families growing together”

Ōtaki College News

March 2024

www.otakicollege.school.nz

From the Principal

This year has started extremely well and I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to all the whānau and schools who recently came to support the pōwhiri for our new students. This is always a very important part of college life, when new students are handed over into our care and we look forward to providing the very best opportunities for them in their ongoing school life in the college.

There have been a number of events taking place since we commenced and I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to our Ngā Ringa Whero (Student Leadership Team) for the amazing sports afternoon they planned and ran on the first day back. This was certainly a great start to our House Competition, which will continue with our annual Athletics and Swimming Days. On a personal note, I am pleased to see Matai House has kicked the trend of the last two or three years and is currently leading the House Competition!

Over the break our Everiss Scholars, Caleb Smith and Hannah Thompson, had an amazing time in London and Scotland. Hannah recently shared her experiences at a school assembly and I would like to personally thank both of them for the wonderful job they have done as ambassadors for the College and our community.

The ongoing development of leadership in the college is an important one and we have been incredibly lucky to have the ongoing support of Outward Bound and Spirit of Adventure. JT Byrne recently sailed on Spirit of Adventure and Witana Cameron has returned from a 21-day Outward Bound Youth Leadership course. Thanks to the generosity of Outward Bound, we have been able to place two students on free eight-day courses, and are currently looking to fill one more opening. We have also been fortunate, thanks to scholarship opportunities offered by Concrete Doctors, XŌtaki Alumni and Chris Parkin, to be able to send all of our Ngā Ringa Whero Team to the Hillary Outdoors Education Centre Tongariro Leadership Course in Januay. As a result of this they have returned a very tight and cohesive team focussed on doing an amazing job over 2024.

New Zealand Army Band

A highlight of the term so far for me, and I am sure for everyone able to attend, was the performance of the New Zealand Army Band at college recently. This would have to be one of the best performances we have

had in terms of professionalism and the ability to get the whole school up and dancing in the hall. I wish to pass on to you all that if you get the opportunity to see this band in action, make sure you go. They are awesome.

In closing, we are now leading up to our **SS Ōtaki Commemoration Service** to be held on March 8 at the College. The theme for this year is the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings. Significantly, there were a number of New Zealand naval personnel engaged in the landings, mainly serving on British vessels, but we did have two Merchant Navy vessels, the Aorangi and Monowai, who were supporting the invasion. As always, if you have an interest in the Commemoration Service, you are more than welcome to come along.

Thanks to ...

I would like to acknowledge the following people for their ongoing support of the College:

Chris Parkin

Our sincere thanks to Chris for his continued support, which has recently enabled students to attend courses at the Hillary Outdoors Education Centre and at Outward Bound. These experiences are life changing and invariably build our students' resilience and leadership skills, which in turn is highly beneficial to our community.

Kāpiti Kindness Trust

Sincere thanks to Martin Sloman and the Kāpiti Kindness Trust for their donation to support whānau who may be struggling financially to meet uniform or stationery costs.

Graeme and Michelle Peter

Sincere thanks for their generous contribution which also is to support whānau who require help with uniform or stationery items. The ongoing kindness and support of the Peter family is greatly appreciated.

Whānau Support

Please be aware that in no way do we want uniform costs or stationery/device costs to stop students attending college. If any whānau find themselves in a position where they are struggling with finances, please do not hesitate to call me directly or email using the following contact details: email afs@otakicollege.school.nz or mobile: 027 432 8829.

We are here to help.

Andy Fraser, Principal



Hannah Thompson reports on the Everiss Scholars' Trip to England and Scotland

Caleb and I have had some fantastic experiences whilst travelling, such as visiting Edinburgh Castle, Walkers shortbread factory, and the city of London, where we were hosted by our outstanding tour guide and former Ōtaki Scholar, Sean Press, along with Mr George Fergusson, Everiss Scholarship Trustee.

It has been such a privilege to share my

Māori & Kiwi culture with the pupils at Robert Gordon's College (RGC), meet new people and sample Scottish culture including eating Haggis, which was surprisingly tasty given its contents. I was eager to meet up with the GAIL group once again and can say I was not disappointed (8 students who travelled to NZ last year to attend a schools conference). It was a pleasure to stay with my host family, the Haslers, as they have shown me true qualities of Scots people and their love of hosting guests. I've also been blessed in many other ways such as being generously looked after by RGC, and meeting new people.

Overall, although the scenery, Scottish culture, and history has been magnificent and eye opening, I feel that the people I met or reconnected with on this trip have made Scotland a magnet for myself to come back to. I cannot wait to see everybody once again! This can be described simply by the whakatauki: "He aha te mea nui o te ao, he tangata, he tangata he tangata".

I strongly encourage everybody at the college to aim to apply for the Ngā Ringa Whero role and to take the advice that I've learnt in my role as kākākura, that it's not always about the academic achievements, and shiny badges, but instead how you hold and conduct yourself. You may not be the most academically gifted, the most athletic, or even the most social person, but if you believe in yourself and set your mind to it, you can achieve anything. Being in a leadership role that allows you to apply for this scholarship could be life changing.

Once again a big thank you to Ōtaki College and the Everiss Trust for this amazing experience which I will remember and cherish for the rest of my life.



Ihnia Graham reports on the Hillary Outdoors Education Centre Tongariro Leadership Course

From 13 to 20February, our Heads of School team set out for the 7-day Leadership Programme at Hillary Outdoors, Tongariro. Over the course of this trip we took part in a series of activities, each of these offered their own challenges which, although pushing us, also had their rewards.

These activities included paddling in Canadian canoes, completing teambuilding challenges, (we were the first team to complete one of these

challenges and set a record for another), indoor rockclimbing, navigating, bushbashing, abseiling, caving, and going on a three-day tramp. Our collective favourite was the caving.

On this trip we met new people from around Aotearoa including Golden Bay, Hawke's Bay, Palmerston and Wellington. We got to try new things, improve our leadership skills, find new ways of solving problems, bond as a team, push ourselves, help and encourage each other to success and, of course, make many memories which will stay with us forever.



Mayor Holborow's report

BY JANET HOLBOROW

The Ōtaki Kite Festival was once again a huge success this year. Thanks to the Ōtaki Promotions Group, the many volunteers and everyone who contributes to the festival.

Special thanks to Kirsty Doyle, festival Project Manager for giving me the opportunity to chat to some of the kite pilots, including Simon Chisnall, a world-renowned kite expert who has worked on all four of the world's largest kites.

Simon commented on the incredible setting and how well they're looked after by the organisers. He also appreciated the participation element of the festival, with people bringing their own kites or buying them at the festival and flying them alongside the larger kites.

below: Janet Holborow with Simon Chisnall



We're pleased to be able to support the Kite Festival through council's Major Events Fund, so it can continue into the future as a wonderful day out for the community and visitors, and an iconic event that brings economic benefit to the district.

On another note, Kāpiti is not alone amongst councils in dealing with unprecedented cost increases as we prepare to release our Long-term Plan (LTP) consultation document.

We have reached a point where we need a concerted effort between Local and Central Government to address how we pay for infrastructure and services.

Councils across the country are facing the pressures of rising costs, for themselves and for their ratepayers. The current system is not fit-for-purpose and needs to be changed.

Sam Broughton, President of Local Government New Zealand recently commented on these pressures, saying that the current rates model is "not sustainable."

"The rates proposed in the LTPs are necessary to fund existing services and essential infrastructure, and while councils are always acutely aware of the need to balance the level of investment needed with affordable increases, the pressure on councils has reached

the tipping point."

The projected rate increases across the country are surely a wake-up call that the current model is not working and that we need to work to create a model which is sustainable and affordable.

The cancellation of the water reforms has added to the problem. Across the Wellington Region and with our neighbours to the north, we are looking at ways we can create models which will benefit us all. In the meantime, we need to continue our programme of work to deliver our water services.

Wellington City Council has recently decided to cut many services to deal with their water infrastructure deficit. At least here in Kāpiti, we have invested in our water assets, so we don't have the problems that some of our neighbours are experiencing.

We currently deliver many services that contribute to the wellbeing of our community, and we're planning and delivering projects which our community has told us are important, for example the strengthening work on the Civic Theatre. Council has been weighing up carefully those projects and services against affordability for our community.

These are outlined in the LTP consultation document which will be going out soon, and I encourage everyone to let us know what you think. What could we stop, or cut, to reduce costs? Do we have our priorities and



above, l-r: Mayor Janet Holborow Grant Stevenson, Mary-Annette Hay historian Jock Phillips and author Di Buchan

financial strategy right?

Lastly, it was sad to hear of the passing of Mary-Annette Hay, granddaughter of Byron Brown. Not only was she a wonderful artist, but she had a significant career in the wool industry, including writing, directing and narrating elaborate productions exhibiting wool garments.

It was wonderful that she was able to attend the launch of *Aiming High*, a biography of Mary-Annette and her grandfather by Ōtaki author Di Buchan, in December. She was also a strong supporter of the Ōtaki Rotunda project, and gifted her art for an auction to support the fundraising efforts. It was lovely to meet her at that event last year and hear her speak so eloquently about her art and life. She will be remembered and missed by many.

Out and about with Shell

BY SHELLY WARWICK – ŌTAKI WARD COUNCILLOR

On 27 January I had the pleasure of opening the *The Kilns Project* at Toi MAHARA gallery in Waikanae. This is an exhibition in ceramic art and other mediums by Kāpiti-based artist Elisabeth Vullings, mapping The Kilns at Te Horo project in art. The Mirek Smíšek kilns were identified by Waka Kotahi as historic when they proposed the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway. They had to preserve the kilns, but luckily for us a group of hearty volunteers set about getting organised into the Mirek Smíšek Arts Trust. They, too, realised that this piece of history needed to be preserved and that the project could be enhanced into an arts, heritage and cultural centre. Seven years of hard work, untold hours, and a lot of passion turned the kilns into the visitor destination it is today. The old Te Horo train station has been restored to be an artist's residence, with Adrienne Risely currently in residence and many more to come. With many more plans, like the ability to fire ceramics onsite, run educational events and involve

the community in art and culture, we are once again blessed with volunteers who have seen a project through to success. The true heroes in this story are the Mirek Smíšek Arts Trust members.

What the kilns do for Ōtaki and Te Horo is draw people along the shared Cycleway, Walkway, Bridleway (CWB) expressway path to our end of the shared path so they can visit our town and support our businesses. We have an amazing CWB network now, and having destination attractions along the way is integral for both locals and our tourist industry.

As seen in Ōtaki and Te Horo time and time again, our volunteer base is vital for our community. Another example of this is the recent annual Ōtaki Kite festival. I saw so many locals in the volunteer crew for the festival, which runs on a shoestring and would not be possible without this "crew". Thank you all, from the whole community, for bringing the locals such a cool, free event to enjoy, as well as bringing in



above, l-r: The Kilns at Te Horo Artist in Residence Adrienne Risely; Toi MAHARA Director Janet Bayly; Curator The Kilns Project exhibition Elisabeth Vullings; Ōtaki Ward Councillor Shelly Warwick; and The Kilns Trust Co-chair

thousands of visitors to contribute to our businesses here. The Kite Festival, the Waitohu School Fireworks and Māoriland Film Festival, among many other events, are all examples of events run by volunteers

for our community. What an awesome little town we live in.

Tumeke e te whānau of awesome volunteers, you are invaluable.

Shelly

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Zero Waste Ōtaki and the dummy dunny

BY DAVE MACINTYRE

When is a fence not a fence? ... when it's a "dummy dunny"!

That's what Andrew Boustridge created from old fence panels sourced from Zero Waste Ōtaki, after his wife Dianna asked him to make a fake long-drop for their garden.

Andrew and Dianna, owners of APB Electrical Ltd, Feilding, have been developing a "novelty corner" in their garden. Dianna had the idea for a pretend long-drop, reminiscent of an outside loo on a farm.

"We needed old, used wood to give it an authentic aged look", says Andrew – and that's where Zero Waste Ōtaki came in. ZWŌ volunteer Rose Siva, who runs the ZWŌ Facebook page, had just posted photographs of six fence panels, all 2.1 metres x 1.6 metres, that were available.

"It was exactly what we needed. We are trying to reuse second-hand timber and materials as much as we can, to give that rustic look, and when we saw these on Facebook we immediately got in touch to ask if they could be earmarked for us," says Andrew.

Once the panels were picked up from our site adjacent to the Ōtaki landfill, Andrew dismantled them and used the fence palings as weatherboards to clad a frame he had built.

The "dummy dunny" also has an internal loo seat – although it is not an actual working long-drop.

The fact that Andrew and Dianna travelled from Feilding underlines how the benefits of ZWŌ are recognised by do-it-yourself enthusiasts far and wide, with people from as far away as Wellington and the Manawātū being lured to the treasure trove of recycled timber that is available at very affordable prices.

Our public Facebook site has 1200 members who regularly post photographs of what they have built. Rose regularly updates the page with photographs of interesting items that have arrived on site and are available for purchase. These include items such as tables, louvres, interior and exterior doors, windows, concrete pavers and roofing iron.

On any given opening day, visitor numbers can vary from about 35 to 70, with between half a tonne and two tonnes of timber being bought. Our volunteers will help direct you to the supplies you need.

Meanwhile, Andrew and Dianna are planning another visit to the site ... Dianna's next novelty idea is a fake Dr Who Tardis!



ZWŌ is open to the public every Wednesday from 9.30 -11am; on the last Sunday of the month from 9.00am – 12.00pm; and occasionally at other times by special arrangement (ph 028 8520 9936). To keep up to date with what's new see the ZWŌ Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/zerowasteotaki.nz



Energise Ōtaki: Sharing the good energy

BY EMILY MCDOWELL



Valentine's Day was an auspicious date for a pilot project's first planning meeting.

Energise Ōtaki's Kai Power Ōtaki / Te Pūngao Kai Ōtaki project will be buying a small anaerobic digester to trial revitalising non-recyclable food scraps into biofuel, in the process also supporting community composting efforts.

All going well, we'll share the love there, thanks to funding from KCDC's Waste Levy grant. More news on this plot as it ferments. Meanwhile, would you or your workplace like to be involved? We welcome collaborators.

Each session, items are weighed and evaluated for the carbon emissions that replacing them would incur - a system adopted from the global Restarters network. Thanks to generous volunteers, last year's repairs 'saved' carbon dioxide emissions to the equivalent of 190 trees growing for 10 years.

Says project lead Hanna Wagner-Nicholls, "This year our target is to get more of us into repairing. So many skills have been lost over the years – and some home repairs are so easy to do when you know how. Even fun."

If you have fix-it skills you'd like to share or teach, please be in contact.

On the volunteering theme, Ōtaki Bike Space lead Kirsty Doyle is bringing the magic of the Ōtaki Kite Festival to the first Volunteers Fix-it day, by dint of the magic being her being the organiser of both, and being there.

Join the thrills! Be the wind beneath the wing guards of future bike riders. No previous experience is necessary.

And finally, want to boost your health and wealth, and others', too?

Warm Up Ōtaki has a new pay-it-forward

scheme: you choose what to pay for a healthy home/ energy efficiency inspection, with tailored advice from project lead Matt Brenin. Sessions start from \$250.

Every dollar above the \$200 mark goes towards sessions for those less able to pay, but ineligible for a free consultation. Six participants now also get free access to Consumer New Zealand's resources. Usually more than \$220 for 12 months' subscription, this just about pays for itself... and the rest will be more than topped-off by your lower energy bills, ongoing.

• Ōtaki Repair Café Volunteer Fix-it Session: 9th March.

• Ōtaki Repair Café: 10th March.

Energiseotaki.nz for all project details and contacts.

below: Ōtaki Carbon Forest's Chris Livesey (left) with landowner Jane Woodhall, looking at land to be planted with native trees as part of the Ōtaki Carbon Forest project.



Low Carbon, Natural Building Workshop: Climate action through better building

BY TOM BEAUCHAMP



How can we build better today?

In the context of climate change and rising housing costs, how can we build or renovate affordable houses that are energy efficient, healthy for the planet, people and other life affected by the life cycle of the built environment?

Over a 3-day weekend, explore how we build and what we build with to create beautiful, healthy homes using low-carbon, natural and abundant materials and how to work with them in a hands-on way. Learn design basics, building science and material assessment. Network and meet other people interested in natural building.

Topics will include:

- Basic building science
- Building legislation
- Passive solar design
- New builds & renovations
- Material assessment & testing
- Wood
- Earth building
- Straw bale, light earth & hempcrete building & bio char
- Natural plasters

The workshops will be delivered through powerpoint presentations and talks, practical exercises and hands-on learning, led by Tom Beauchamp & Blue Forsyth.

Tom Beauchamp:

Tom's mahi is a builder, design collaborator, consultant and teacher in earth and natural building. Tom runs a small company "Natural Build Ōtaki" based on the Kāpiti coast.

After a career in visual and performing arts in NZ and overseas, he became inspired by sustainable architecture and natural building after attending an EBANZ conference in 2014. Driven by a desire to help create a better world for the next generation,



alongside learning earth and natural fibre building methods, Tom completed a conventional building apprenticeship and is a licenced building practitioner.

With his background in the arts, Tom works in a collaborative way with clients, architects, engineers and other building practitioners to create homes that work on multiple regenerative levels including, relationship with surrounding ecology, embodied energy, performance, beauty, health and life-cycle analysis. Tom lives with his artist wife and two kids in Ōtaki Beach.

Blue Forsyth:

Blue is a passionate advocate for affordable, healthy and sustainable housing, especially the use of natural materials. His special interest is in developing methods of earth and straw bale construction suited to our challenging economic and climatic

conditions whilst improving environmental outcomes.

He has been active in earth building for over 30 years. During this period, he has worked extensively with the Heritage New Zealand to help preserve our earth-building heritage as well as working on many modern earth and straw bale buildings.

Blue has been promoting the earth and straw bale building options through both formal and informal courses and workshops. He developed and tutored a Certificate course in Natural Building through the Aoraki Polytechnic (now Ara Institute of Canterbury) in Timaru. Blue also holds a Bachelor of Resource Studies from Lincoln University.



In 2018, Blue and family relocated to Foxton Beach from where he continues to offer a range of services to those wishing to pursue natural building options, from friendly support, education and consultation to materials testing and construction. He is also continuing to experiment with new products and building methods especially around improving carbon balance.

When: Easter weekend (29–31 March, 2024)

Where: Trinity Farm, 202 Waitohu Valley Road, Ōtaki, Kāpiti Coast

Catering: tea, coffee, snacks and lunch provided

Cost: \$600 full price; \$400 concession

Thanks to support from KCDC, Kāpiti resident cost is: \$500 full price; \$300 concession A limited number of volunteer places are also available

Optional Accommodation: For those who are from further afield or want to stay, there are on site camping & self catering options available.

To Register or for more information: naturalbuildingotaki@gmail.com

ph 021 121 1321

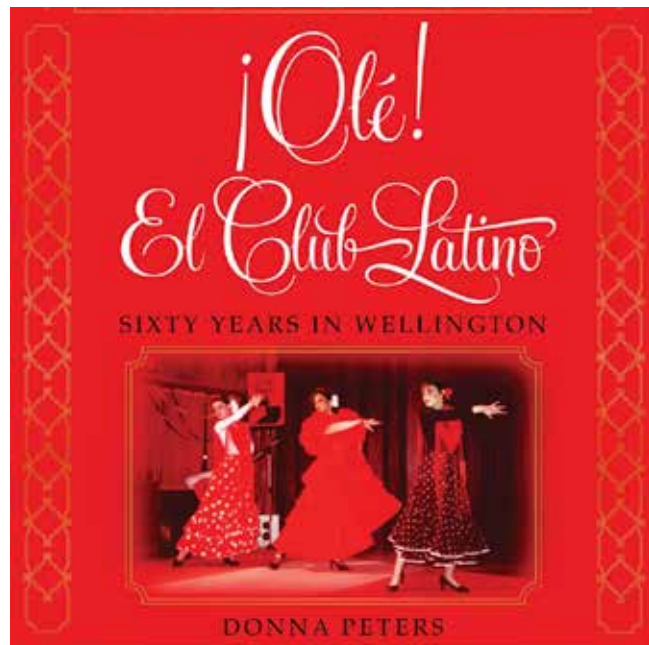


Arts, Books Corner

¡Olé! El Club Latino: 60 years in Wellington

REVIEWED BY ANN CHAPMAN

Ōtaki writer, Donna Peters has produced a delightful book to commemorate 60 years' activity of the Wellington Club Latino. It's packed full of memories, photos of members and events, and documents a lively club over the years.



The club started in 1963 in Wellington to enable Spanish and English speakers to meet, improve their language, have fun with myriad events and activities. All were designed to honour the traditions of the

Spanish-speaking world. Language camps, fiestas, formal balls and parties were all part of their annual get-togethers.

The book identifies the Wellingtonians who make up the eclectic mix of characters who celebrate their Hispanic culture. It tells their collective stories, displays publicity articles in the local papers, photographs, letters, agendas and programmes.

Towards the end are the profiles of members – including Donna herself – and Ōtaki residents Diana and Peter Standen.

Donna spent time in Spain after her initial OE took her to a small town, Gandfa, near Valencia, where she taught English. On her return she resumed her studies, gaining a BA of Arts majoring in English and Spanish. She went on to gain her diploma in teaching and received an MA Hons in Spanish.

This is a lovely memorial to what looks like an energetic and fun club.

by Donna Peters

Fern Publishing, \$70

Available at Books & Co, Ōtaki, or from Donna Peters: (021 050 1904) donna@clublatinobook.co.nz

Memories of the Royal Family: A Kiwi Collection

REVIEWED BY ANN CHAPMAN

Angela Robertson has put together some lovely fond memories about the royals written in a series of essays by students undertaking her write-your-memories courses.

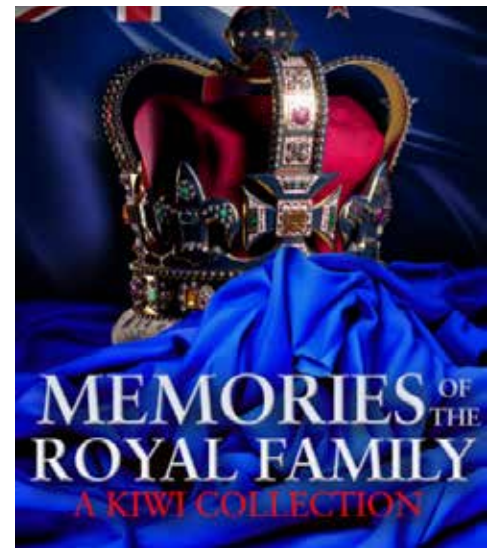
In her “Write your Story” community workshops, the students were encouraged to write their family memories about the royal family, as it was a topic which frequently came up in discussion. There are memories of community events, memories as told by their parents or grandparents, all weaving a private picture of an era when the royals were admired, when we considered ourselves British.

The personal essays follow some chapters about the history of the family, the death of King George, the ascension to the throne of Elizabeth, her marriage and her children. The family memories are often accompanied by scrapbook articles and pictures, by postcards, newspaper clipping, letters and other memorial items associated with the royal family's significant events. There are also often photographs of the authors or their ancestors.

This is the second book from Ms Robertson, the *Ōtaki Mail* has reviewed, but she lists many more to her credit.

She is more than an author. She is an inspirational speaker, and workshop facilitator working with groups, individuals and communities to broaden their perspective on ageing, on seizing opportunities and channeling their energy to create living legacies.

Available from Books & Co, Ōtaki, \$32



Hogsnot Bulldogs Goodtime Show

Still continuing to regularly perform an energetic and fun-filled show, a band that includes original stars from the sixties and seventies hit bands – Hogsnot Rupert, Bulldogs Allstar Goodtime Band and Dave and the Dynamos – will be playing at the Levin Cosmopolitan Club on Saturday 16 March 2024.

Founding members, Dave Luther, Kevin Findlater and Neil Worboys, have collaborated with other great Wellington musicians to develop a new band called the Hogsnot Bulldogs Goodtime Show. The Show's song-list features all the bands' great chart-topping hits from the era including 'Pretty Girl', 'Miss September', 'Aunty Alice Bought Us This', 'Everyone Knows' and 'Life Begins at Forty'. Other well-known skiffle and jug-band songs, blues, and popular standards are also featured in

their two-hour live show. After sold-out shows in 2023, the guys are looking forward to performing at the Levin Cossie Club.

The band has recently filmed a number of 'simply amazing' videos featuring many of the songs they'll be performing and these can be viewed on the band's website: www.hogsnotbulldogs.co.nz and on YouTube.

“We're delighted to be bringing all our popular original songs and toe-tapping approach back to New Zealand after a time of absence,” says Dave Luther, the founding member of Hogsnot Rupert and the composer of all their hits.

Please contact the Levin Cossie Club on 06 3682571

or call in at 47–51 Oxford St, Levin, for tickets.

Kāpiti Coast Art Trail

Te Ara Toi o te Takutai o Kāpiti

2/3 + 9/10 November

Calling all Kāpiti Coast artists...

K

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‘24

Kāpiti Coast DISTRICT COUNCIL

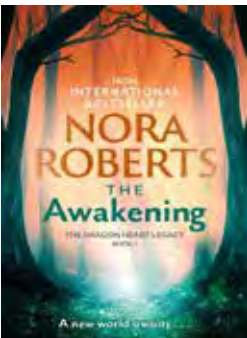


Ngā Arotakenga Mai i Te Whare Whakamatāu o Ōtaki

Ōtaki Library Hours:

Mon-Tue: 9am-5pm
Wed: 10am-5pm
Thu-Fri: 9am-5pm
Sat: 10am-4pm

The Awakening - Nora Roberts



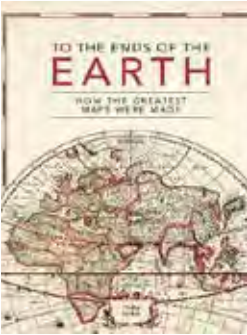
Trapped by rules, student debt, and a detested job, Breen Kelly is stunned to discover a multimillion-dollar bank account left by her long-lost father. Opting to pursue her heritage, Breen's trip to Ireland unexpectedly thrusts her through a portal into a mystical realm. There, her latent magical abilities awaken with the aid of her grandmother, unveiling her true lineage, and subjecting her to myriad challenges. This is the first part of a trilogy. Series#2. *The Becoming*. Reserved it!
REVIEWER: Debbie: Ōtaki Library Staff.

Thea Stilton And The Lost Letters



Five mice students who want to be journalists form a group called, The Thea Sisters. The friends travel to Russia for their school summer break, but what they don't know, is that it's about to turn into a mystery they would have to solve for their friend, the greatest figure skater in all of Russia. I have been reading the Stilton Series for nearly five years and I still love them. I would recommend this series for people who enjoy non-creepy mysteries and tales of friendship. REVIEWER: Azaria - age 11.

To The Ends of the Earth - Philip Parker



This fascinating, lavishly illustrated book looks at all aspects of making a map. From 1250 BC pots to Google, it traces the development and changing design of different kinds of maps. My favourite chapter was on how mapmakers determine what is important in a map, how they decide to illustrate important features - and how the little symbols we take for granted change over time. It's easy to read, and illustrations are well chosen, so if you like odd subjects, give it a go.
REVIEWER: Deborah: Paraparaumu Library Staff.

Artist in Residence at Ōtaki Library



Rangitopeora Carkeek Wiremu of Ngāti Raukawa and Ngāti Toa Rangatira is the artist in residence at Ngā Wawata, Ōtaki Library. Her creative process is deeply informed by the day to day interactions of library visitors and staff. Creating work that depicts the relationship between people and Te Taiao, she uses colour and detail to drive the direction and mood of her paintings. Her works unfold intuitively and without grounded intention. Rangitopeora paints live on-site at the Library, finishing her works through the conversations and interactions she gets to engage in.

Ōtaki Library: Corner of Main Street and Aotaki Street, Ōtaki



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ŌTAKI HERITAGE
Te Whare Pouhere Taonga o Ōtaki

ŌTAKI IN THE NEWS ~ 1904

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

January 28

The dry season is playing havoc with the dairy farmers in the Otaki district. One farmer milking 35 cows has had all the grass burnt, and his neighbours have fared little better. The milk supply is failing, and already shows a decline of 20 per cent, since the first of the month. The difference in the price of butter between now and this time last year, is from 12s to 14s per cwt., which makes a difference in receipts for manufactured product to a factory like the Otaki factory of from £12 to £14 per day, and to the Levin factory of half as much again. The oldest settlers say it is the driest season they remember, if it continues it will do a lot of harm. Many farmers are experiencing difficulty in watering their stock.

February 17

It is reported that owing to fires much valuable flax has been destroyed, the whole of the swamp between Paraparaumu and Paekakariki having been swept by flame. A grass fire spread over Mr Hakaria te Whena's property at Te Horo destroying 100 cords of cut firewood, and between 200 and 300 posts, besides leaving it bare of grass. It is understood that a claim for damage will be made against the Railway Company on whose property it is said the fire originated. Mr J. Howell lost about 170 acres of grass, which will compel Mr Howell to sell his dairy herd. Big fires are reported to be raging in the Otaki gorge, and two outbuildings are reported to have been burnt.

March 23

Two shelters for consumptives have been erected near the Otaki Hospital, each being under the charge of the hospital staff. The shelters are about 8ft x 10ft, are made wholly of waterproof canvas, with wooden floors. The front is made to open from floor to ceiling, and is kept exposed to the weather except when stormy or wet. Ample ventilation is also provided at each end, and the little canvas houses are comfortable and airy, the main essential being that the patients get plenty of fresh air. The occupants can call the nurses at any time, being connected by electric bells. The site, on the top of the sandhills by the hospital, says a contemporary, is an ideal one for consumptives, and doubtless many more shelters will be erected in the near future, if the experiment is successful, and there seems little doubt on that score. The two patients now at Otaki speak very highly of their treatment, and the benefit of the Otaki air.

July 6

The Public Works Department has accepted the tender of Messrs A Cooper and Son for the erection of the Post Office at Otaki. The contract price is £1863 6s 8d. Provision is to be made in the building for the memorial clock that was subscribed for and purchased by the townspeople.

August 19

A meeting to discuss matters connected with the Porirua trust lands was held in the Otaki Town Hall on Monday evening, and was well attended by natives as well as Europeans. According to the "Otaki Mail," Mr W. H. Field, M.H.R., spoke at some length, tracing the history of the trust, and in opposition, to the proposal that the Porirua funds should be spent at Papawai. He had understood that the Bishop of Wellington would adopt the suggestions he had made in 1900, that the Porirua and Otaki trusts should be combined, and one large school for native children established at Otaki, to be maintained by the two trust properties. Since then, however, this proposal had been rejected. He urged that the petition to Parliament asking for an inquiry into the matter, should be largely signed. The accumulated Porirua funds, with the insurance of the building recently destroyed at Otaki, would be sufficient to establish a fine college at Otaki, but if more money were required, a portion of the land could be sold. It would be better to allow the land and money to revert to the descendants of the natives who originally gave the piece of land at Porirua (Tamihana te Rauparaha and Matene te Whiwhi), than to adopt the proposal of the trustees. Mr Hone Heke, M.H.R., also advanced reasons why it was unjust to expend the Porirua trust funds in scholarships at the Papawai school, and neglect to erect a school on the West Coast of this island. The following resolution was agreed to:—"That the Europeans present all sign the petition, and use every endeavour in their power to get the Porirua trust funds expended in the erection of a school at Otaki." Hearty votes of thanks were given to Messrs Field and Heke for their addresses.

September 9

Mrs Colenso, relict of the late Wm. Colenso, of Napier, who died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs W. H. Simcox, of Otaki, on Friday last, at the ripe age of 83, had a remarkable history. She was born in the Bay of Islands in the 1821, and was therefore one of the very first Europeans born in the colony. She belonged to the early set of missionaries who came over with the Rev. S. Marsden from New South Wales to teach the Maoris Christianity. Mrs Colenso (says the Otaki Mail) taught the Maoris for a great many years—first at Bishop Selwyn's Waimate college for students, and afterwards at Taupiri, where there was a large school of Maori children. The Waitara was the cause of breaking up all the Maori schools, so Mrs Colenso then went to England, where she spent six peaceful years. While she was at Home, a large party of natives arrived there, and the late Queen Victoria desired to see them all. After a time one of the Maoris—Hariata Pomare, who lives at Katihiku, Otaki, gave birth to a boy. The Queen asked Mrs Colenso, as she knew the Maori language and customs, to take care of the woman, and get her clothing, medical attendance, and, fact, to provide her with every comfort and luxury, and the Queen paid for all. Queen Victoria also said she would act as god mother to the child, and when the day of the christening arrived the boy was named Albert Victor, in compliance with the Queen's wishes. When the baby was about a month old, Mrs Colenso, the mother and father of the child, and the baby attended Windsor Castle, at the Queen's request. Six years after, Mrs Colenso returned to New Zealand. Afterwards she went to Norfolk Island to help in the mission, and with her usual indefatigable energy, soon learned the Mota language, and speedily became one of the best teachers of the Scriptures. She translated an English book of notes and comments on the collects into the Mota language, and for the use of teachers of schools in the islands. Mrs Colenso remained at Norfolk Island for 23 years, when she found her infirmities too bad for her to be of any more use to the mission. She then left and came to Otaki, where she had resided with her daughter, Mrs Simcox, ever since.



MĀORILAND
FILM FESTIVAL
NATIVE PEOPLES - GLOBAL FILMS



ŌTAKI
20 / 24 MARCH
2024

168 WORKS FROM 130 INDIGENOUS NATIONS TO SCREEN AT MĀORILAND FILM FESTIVAL IN ŌTAKI - 20TH TO 24TH MARCH 2024

The largest Indigenous film festival in the world is back in 2024, presenting 168 films and video works from over 130 Indigenous nations across five days in sunny Ōtaki on the Kapiti Coast in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

The Māoriland Film Festival returns for its eleventh year with the largest programme to date, including 11 feature films, eight feature documentaries and 36 short film programs.

Festival director Mēketeine Hakarua de Young said 2024 saw the largest number of eligible films submitted for program consideration to date, with films from Aotearoa, Australia, Canada, United States, Finland, Norway, Kazakhstan, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cook Islands, Greenland, Fiji, India, Kenya, Marshall Islands, Palestine, Mexico, Nepal, Russia, Sierra Leone, Taiwan and more.

"Every year, we see the groundswell of Indigenous storytelling continue to grow. Māoriland is a global event - so we prioritise bringing new communities and voices to the festival," says Hakarua de Young.

"It's never been more important for Indigenous voices to be heard. We see the power of film storytelling to grow empathy and create change. Every success in our Indigenous screen community grows our ability to go further."

"The theme of this year's festival, 'Kia Tau Te Rangomāui,' is a call for peace. We have worked with Rachael Bakera to curate an exhibition down Otaki's Main Street with artists Tame W, Regan Baker, Johnson Wairere and Ngatamaru Taepa in response to this theme.

"We're honoured to have these esteemed artists share their responses to our theme at our 2024 Māoriland Keynote at Rangitāia Church on Wednesday, March 20th."

People's Choice Award, again, for mosaic artist

Winning the Arotake Toi MAHARA Arts Review People's Choice Award for the second time did not diminished the surprise and pleasure Waikanae mosaic artist Jane Santos felt when the award was announced.

Back in 2019, the last review before Covid and the Toi MAHARA rebuild intervened, she won the award with *Te Aro Cameo*, one of her meticulously crafted mosaics of heritage Wellington houses.

In the latest review - part of Toi MAHARA's opening programme - the only thing that changed was the suburb. Her 2023 entry, *Mt Cook Transformed*, was just as popular with visitors to the gallery.

In 2019 she regarded her success as a vindication of the mosaic art she has pioneered in New Zealand. Her reaction this year remains much the same.

"I was both surprised and delighted with the award," she said. "There is no critic so merciless as the general public."

The story of Jane's conversion to mosaics goes back 25 years to when she was living and working in the United Kingdom.

"I was working in another medium in London when I saw the work of Emma Biggs from the Mosaic Workshop," she says. "It caught my eye and inspired me to know more."

She took some tuition and has "not looked back." She came to New Zealand in 2002 to work full-time in the medium and found that Wellington's old villas and bungalows lent themselves to being captured by artists.

"My subjects come from all over Wellington, but in particular Te Aro, Thorndon, Berhampore and Mt Victoria. The houses are as authentic as I can make them but the settings are my own."

"To date I have completed over 200 cityscapes of Wellington. Some panels are large and some small, but all are worked from photographs."

"In some small way, I am preserving the history of Wellington which may disappear in future years."

Jane Santos's work has evolved over the past 22 years during which she has developed a two-layer system as a way of helping perspective.

"I believe my style is unique as are the tiles that I use, which have to be imported from Europe in the main. Glass I usually buy from Australia, the United States as well as from New Zealand."

Jane has exhibited in Wellington, Auckland, Australia and England and sold her work from selected galleries. She says she considers herself fortunate that her work has pleased, and been collected by, so many buyers from

source: Toi MAHARA



below: Jane Santos with
***Mt Cook Transformed* (2023)**



Media Muse

By Manakau’s Tom Frewen

Here we go again, stumbling into another year of living together in unholy acrimony on a classic South Seas island paradise a la *Lord of the Flies*.

William Golding’s fable about English schoolboys stranded on a tropical island has eerie parallels with the way this new three-party government is getting into gear. Ralph wants to keep a fire going to make smoke to alert any passing ships to their existence. Jack’s into hunting pigs and feasting and dancing while Piggy is the clever one who gets bullied, ridiculed and, eventually, got rid of. If Ralph is Christopher Luxon and Jack is Winston Peters, Piggy is David Seymour, destined for the chop from the get-go when he breaks one lens of his glasses, rendering him as one-eyed as a certain English rugby referee.

Ralph, meanwhile, has this to say about politics: “Meetings. Don’t we love meetings? Every day. Twice a day. We talk.

“I bet if I blew the conch this minute, they’d come running. Then we’d be, you know, very solemn, and someone would say we ought to build a jet, or a submarine, or a TV set. When the meeting was over they’d work for five minutes then wander off or go hunting.”

So, when the new prime minister gets hold of the conch the first thing he does is blow it — Parp! Parp! Parp! — and before you can say “Zoom” he’s got a meeting on the go.

“Ka nui te mihi kia koutou,” he says. “Kia ora, good morning, talofa, malo e lelei, bula vinaka, da jia hao, namaste, sat sri akal, assalamu alaikum.”

“Thank you for coming to my first State of the Nation as Prime Minister.”

It’s Ralph’s first State of the Nation speech but Piggy has beaten him to the conch —

Parp! Parp! Parp! — and made a State of the Nation speech himself.

“Good morning, fellow New Zealanders,” he says. “Today I’d like to talk about the state of our nation.”

Piggy starts with the weather. He says there have been “periods of golden weather, like the 60s and early 70s, and the 90s and early 2000s . . . followed by growing frustration, like the early 80s and early 2020s.

“Each time there is a rebirth. Our nation has a great capacity to reinvent itself, each time becoming more inclusive, mature, and prosperous than before.”

Ralph’s State of the Nation speech starts off even more upbeat:

“New Zealand is the best country on Planet Earth,” he says.

“It’s not because of our beaches. It’s not because of our mountains. It’s certainly not because of our roads.

“It’s because of you. Because of us. Our people.

“Kiwis are resourceful and savvy. We work hard and we play harder.

“We’re a country with a glint in our eye and fire in our soul. We reach for the stars even while we stay close to our roots.

“We climbed Everest. We split the atom. We charted waka across the ocean to come here, and we’re blasting off to space to compete with the best in the world.”

It would be interesting to know what his speech writers were on. Edmund Hilary climbed Everest. That was back in 1953. Ernest Rutherford split the atom in 1918. A long time between drinks you might say. And you can’t chart waka. They’re not available for short-term rental let alone charter for ocean cruises. And appointing Judith Collins as our first minister for space

may be one small step for person, but is hardly a giant leap forward for personkind. The real reason for having a space programme is revealed in a 37-page briefing document for the incoming space minister written by the Ministry for Business Innovation and Enterprise (MBIE). Drawn from the National Party’s election manifesto, the “Unleashing New Horizons” policy is the launch pad for the country’s first space probe, aimed not at putting the first Māori on the Moon as you might expect but at establishing a lunar loony base at 15 Stout Street, MBIE’s Wellington HQ where there are so many meetings in progress that their start times and room numbers are constantly updated on a huge electronic board like the ones that airports use for departures and arrivals.

“As the Minister for Space,” MBIE informs the Minister for Space, “you are focused on growing New Zealand’s space and aviation sector.

“We understand that the Government’s priorities in this portfolio are based on the National Party manifesto that will support your objective of a New Zealand space sector worth \$10 billion by 2030.”

With the ingratiating manner of a greasy head-waiter seating diners at a flash eatery, MBIE asks its new minister how best it can be of assistance, explaining:

“We engage with you primarily through the following mechanisms – meetings, between yourself and MBIE officials based on your preference; fortnightly update reports on key policy and operational issues in the portfolio; [and] regular briefings providing you with advice.”

So, on entering lunar loony orbit, work gets under way and it’s meetings meetings meetings; emails emails emails; briefings briefings briefings; updates updates updates; more emails emails emails setting up the next meetings meetings meetings.

So obvious that it’s not in the ministry’s briefing, the portfolio only applies to outer

space (aka the universe). Inner space is the responsibility of the Minister for Mental Health. Yes, there is one. His name is Matt Doocoy.

And there will be “education-focused initiatives to inspire young people and train more students in STEM [science, technology, engineering and mathematics].” There will also be a Prime Minister’s Space Prize and a Global Growth Tech Visa (GGTV), “a residence visa for people with highly specialised skills who have worked at a global tech company earning at least \$400,000 per annum.”

That’s twice the annual salary of \$200,000 that Purdue University in Indiana calculates as the minimum required for a reasonably comfortable life in New Zealand – enough for a deposit on a house in a leafy suburb and the purchase of a Mercedes-AMG EQE53 SUV, the featured vehicle in a recent NZ Herald “Driven Car Guide”, priced at \$199,990 (plus on-road costs, of course), leaving enough for a single-scoop icecream and a packet of jaffas.

But, back to the Prime Minister’s State of the Nation speech, clearly based on an out-of-date edition of Politics for Dummies without the chapter on the need to replace the rhetoric used for campaigning with new slogans and thought-bites more suited to having won the election.

Summing up the State of the Nation as “fragile”, a word more usually associated with the freight-forwarding realm, the PM concludes it’s nothing that a bit of good old-fashioned beneficiary bashing can’t fix to get the country “Back on Track” – not the tracks that Kiwirail laid too close together in the Wairarapa, obviously, or the tracks in Auckland that melt in moderately warm conditions. Not those tracks, but the track that his National predecessor Rob Muldoon was on back in the 1970s before he got derailed in 1984 and Labour laid out some new tracks to get the country back on track.

KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETINGS IN MARCH 2024

Tuesday, 5 March 2024	Briefing: WellingtonNZ	9.30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 5 March 2024	Briefing: Blue Bluff Slip Options	10.30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 5 March 2024	Otaki Community Board Meeting	7.00pm	Gertrude Atmore Supper Room, Memorial Hall, Otaki
Thursday, 7 March 2024	Social Sustainability Subcommittee Meeting	9.30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 12 March 2024	Paekākāriki Community Board Meeting	7.00pm	St Peter's Hall, Beach Road, Paekākāriki
Thursday, 14 March 2024	Strategy, Operations and Finance Committee Meeting	9.30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday, 14 March 2024	Briefing: Te Newhanga Kāpiti Community Centre	2.30pm	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 19 March 2024	Raumati Community Board Meeting	7.00pm	Te Raukura ki Kāpiti, 34a Raumati Road, Raumati Beach
Thursday, 21 March 2024	Additional Council Meeting	9.30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday, 21 March 2024	Chief Executive Performance and Employment Committee Meeting	1.30pm	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 26 March 2024	Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti	9.30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 26 March 2024	Paraparaumu Community Board Meeting	6.30pm	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday, 28 March 2024	Council Meeting	9.30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu

Attendance at Meetings

(1) Cancellation

- Meetings may be cancelled for a variety of reasons. Not all cancellations can be advertised. To confirm whether a meeting is occurring, refer to our website or ring the Manager Democracy Services on (04) 296 4700 or toll free on 0800 486 486.

(2) Venue

- Please note that all meetings will be held in the Council Chambers, Civic Administration Building, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu, unless otherwise specified.

(3) Public Forum

- a 30-minute session may be held before every Council and Strategy, Operations and Finance committee meeting (9.00 am – 9.30 am) if requests to speak have been received. During public forum attendants can speak on any topic. Bookings are essential. Please book ahead with the Democracy Services Team – an online booking form can be found on our website.

(4) Public Speaking Time

- Under Council's Standing Orders, members of the public may request to speak on any items relating to agenda items. If you wish to request to speak, please book ahead with the Democracy Services team.

(5) Live-streaming

- Council and Committee meetings are live-streamed.

(6) Agendas

- are available two days before the meeting at:

- Our website www.kapiticoast.govt.nz;
- Council's Libraries and Service Centres.

Darren Edwards

Chief Executive

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Victim Support	0800 842 846
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ŌSLSC Rookies: Lifeguards in training

BY ELLIOT YAXLEY – SURF LIFEGUARD

As part of the junior surf program that our wonderful surf lifesaving club provides, kids aged 12 to 13 years old have the opportunity to be a Rookie lifeguard. As a Rookie lifeguard the kids participate in trainings with the Nippers on Sunday afternoons at the beach and Thursday evenings at the Ōtaki Pool. Along with those sessions they have extra training on

Monday evenings at the beach and attend the voluntary patrols over the weekends. Throughout this program we coaches, Shea Lenaghan, Mia King and myself, Elliot Yaxley, focus on building confidence in and out of the water; knowledge of all things surf lifesaving; and creating amazing experiences for the kids involved. One of those experiences this summer was a

snorkelling trip to Princess Bay, Wellington, followed by an unexpected swim with a pod of dolphins! Our Rookies this season have been a great bunch and have learnt so much; they show this on patrol and are an integral part of our volunteer service we provide at the beach. During our Monday night sessions our Rookies have learnt how to rescue patients

using different methods and gear; some basic first aid; as well as how to look after the beach, gear, people and so much more! They have made the effort and put in the mahi this season and our patrols are all the better for having them. We coaches are so proud of them all and look forward to seeing them progress through surf lifesaving to become amazing Lifeguards.



When not to call the fire brigade

BY FRANK NEILL

Following a number of what get classified as Good Intent calls, Ōtaki Fire Chief Ian King says he wants to explain to the local public the confusion around domestic rubbish fires and rural burn-offs. A “good intent” call is where callers report an emergency but when the brigade arrives it finds that it is not. “People who wish to burn rubbish or vegetation on their property can do so, provided it is done in a controlled manner in an incinerator,” Ian says. “It must supervised by the occupant, be

away from boundary fences, with a hose present, and not be burnt after dark. “If all these conditions are being met, Fire and Emergency New Zealand [FENZ] do not need to be called. Ian says he is aware of neighbourly gripes, whereby a neighbour calls FENZ thinking the brigade will arrive and extinguish the fire but, as mentioned above and if there is no risk to life or property, the brigade will not extinguish the fire, and often don’t need to be called. “This also applies to fires in a rural area,” Ian says.

“Fire is used by rural property owners as a land-management tool and, frequently, particularly on weekends, smoke drifting into the sky is common around our area. “Often passing motorists using the expressway will call 111 for “smoke in the area” which are often these rural burn-offs, where no action or response is required. “Obviously, at certain times of the year when fire restrictions are in place, these burn-offs should not be happening.” The Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade responded to 25 calls during January.

It attended three property fires, three medical calls and two motor-vehicle crashes. Private fire alarms activating resulted in eight calls. There were five calls to rubbish, grass or scrub fires; three medical call-outs; and two good intent calls. The brigade attended one “special services” call. Special services are events not fitting the above categories, such as helicopter landings and lines down. The brigade also assisted a neighbouring brigade once in January.

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