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April 2024

A very busy community organisation

BY FRANK NEILL

Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki is one very busy community organisation. From providing school lunches to maternity services, from their youth

space to vaccination clinics, from training rangatahi to help them engage in employment or education to a new men's well-being programme, it provides

a huge range of service to the community. And these are just some of the programmes it provides.



above: Heniti Buick, Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki Kaiwhakahaere General Manager

Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki aims to influence total well-being and positive change.

It's vision is to build a thriving Ōtaki community that ensures equitable well-being and outcomes for all.

"Our biggest arm is our youth services arm," says Heniti Buick, Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki Kaiwhakahaere – General Manager.

One of the programmes for rangatahi is Te Hunga Rangatahi ki Ōtaki.

"Te Hunga Rangatahi is a 12-week programme that helps rangatahi engage with education, employment or training," Heniti says.

"For rangatahi aged 16 to 24 it aims to give them the life skills to get them work ready.

"Responding to rangatahi and really listening to what they need is fundamental to Hunga Rangatahi success.

"Rangatahi come first – always.

"The flexibility of the programme is tailored to the rangatahi in each intake."

Associated with Te Hunga Rangatahi is a youth mentoring programme.

The mentors are caring individuals who walk alongside the rangatahi to encourage them to reach their unique potential.

"Our mentoring has recently been expanded to all the secondary schools in Ōtaki," Heniti says.

Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki has also, in partnership with Kāpiti Coast District Council, opened Te Haemata, a youth space in Aotaki Street.

Open to young people three days a week, the

youth space is attracting good numbers, especially Māori rangatahi. "We've seen a really good uptake of the service," Heniti says. The youth space provides a range of games as well as the space for the rangatahi and helps them connect with role models.

As well as the youth space in Aotaki Street, Te Puna Oranga has a pop-up youth space, using a caravan.

This can be taken to events in Ōtaki and it is "very busy," Heniti says.

Every school day Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki also prepares 1000 meals for school students in Ōtaki as part of the Ka Ora, Ka Ako – Healthy School Lunches programme.

Currently it is providing lunches for students at Ōtaki College, St Peter Chanel School, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Rito and Ōtaki Primary School.

In term two it will start delivering lunches to Waitohu School.

"Our production line starts at 6:30am and we've employed about nine local people to serve the kids," Heniti says.

"We've expanded in the last two months ... moving from providing 200 to 1000 lunches a day.

"In doing so, we have acquired the Ōtaki Health Camp kitchen, which is an old gem that has worked out really well for us."

Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki's Mauri Ora vaccination clinic is at 51 Main Street and provides Covid, Influenza, MMR and childhood vaccines.

"We have just started a new service ... which is in its development phases.

"This will provide developmental checks for children under five – making sure any referrals are made as necessary."

Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki has a social services arm that acts as a community connector.

"It's designed to support whānau who are in hardship and we work in closely with the Ministry of Social Development to support them," Heniti says.

"On a Monday night we have a men's well-being programme.

"This is encouraging men to regulate their emotions and share their load.

"This is a new initiative and is for men who are looking for support and anyone can contact us." The contact email is mauriora@tepunaoranga-otaki.nz.

As well as supporting men this programme also has the ability to refer them to other pathways as required.

"Sometimes the men just need to be heard," Heniti notes.

Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki's clinical team has just introduced a new maternity service.

The new service will "support women with anything they need and connect them to all the services they require for a healthy start to life.

"It's about nurturing mum and baby – nurturing the beginning of life and setting them up for a good future."

[continued p 3]



Ōtaki hapū presents Treaty claims page 5



Waka Hoe fundraiser page 11



D-Day remembered page 14



Pre-season netball at Ngā Purapura page 24

ŌTAKI MAIL MADNESS

I finally did it! I watched every single movie at the festival,
all 167 of them!!



Gladys sat quietly for 5 minutes before giving him the news

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Ōtaki Mail

For news and advertising contact:
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beginning of every month.

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A Garden Party with Author Jenny Patrick

Join us on 6 April 2023 at 1.30 pm
at 12 and 14 Te Harawira Street, Ōtaki.

Jenny Patrick, a popular Paekākāriki-based author, will tell us about her experiences of developing, writing and publishing historical fiction – based on periods of Aotearoa New Zealand history. *The Denniston Rose* and its sequel *Heart of Coal* are among New Zealand's biggest-selling novels. You will also have the opportunity to win her latest book *Harbouring*. Jenny is also well-known for her creative timeless jewellery.

We will also have two talented musicians – our Mayor, Janet Holborow and Coral Trimmer – to entertain us with music as we enjoy a **sumptuous afternoon tea**, which will be provided, along with a wander through two lovely side-by-side gardens. The gardeners, Di and Margaret, will be on hand to share their gardening stories.

Admission \$20

As numbers are limited (50pax), bookings can be made by contacting
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followed by payment into
Ōtaki Branch NZLP Account 38-9016-0792189-00 using your name as reference

This is a fundraiser for the Ōtaki Branch, NZ Labour Party



Cheaper way of settling small disputes

BY FLEUR HOBSON

New Zealand's legal system has a way people can settle small disputes without the cost and stress of going to court. The Ministry of Justice runs the Disputes Tribunal of New Zealand, which can settle disputes for claims up to \$30,000. This tribunal is not like a formal court.

One big difference is that a lawyer cannot represent you. Most people represent themselves.

Another big difference is that there are no judges.

Each hearing is run by a referee.

The referee listens to both sides, identifies the issues, reviews the evidence and then helps the two sides reach a settlement.

If a settlement cannot be reached, the referee can make a decision, and this decision is binding.

The tribunal can help with disputes about a wide variety of issues.

Some examples are: disputes about damage to a car or bike in an accident, or when someone borrowed the vehicle; disputes about fences, property damage, borrowed property that hasn't been returned, and flatmates not doing what they agreed to; disputes about goods you've bought that don't work properly; whether a tradesperson has done work properly, charges for work done, and loss caused by misleading advertising; and debts that consider you should not have to pay for some reason.

One very important aspect is that you can use the tribunal even if you have signed an agreement saying you wouldn't do that.

To make a claim you need to do two things. You need to fill out a form, which you can find on the Disputes Tribunal website, <https://disputestribunal.govt.nz/>.

You also need to pay a fee. The fee for filing an application depends on the amount you are claiming.

Although a lawyer cannot represent you that does not mean that a lawyer cannot help you, especially when preparing for a hearing. Many people, in fact, get advice from a lawyer and find that it proves invaluable.

There are many things you will need to do when you are preparing for the hearing.

One, for example, is to gather the evidence you need to advance your claim. Depending on your case, this could

include things like quotes, contracts, invoices, receipts, photos, letters and Police reports.

A lawyer can also help you with what you need to say and the best way to say it.

As well as presenting your case in person at the hearing, you can also provide the tribunal with your case in writing (known as a written submission), and a lawyer can help with that too.

At Susie Mills Law, we will be happy to help you if you are considering making a claim to the Disputes Tribunal.

Contact Fleur, Susie or Freya at Susie Mills Law, ph 364 7190, 282 Mill Road, Ōtaki – opposite Farmlands.

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Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki

[continued from front page]

The new service is running both antenatal classes and maternity groups, and “fathers are welcome too.”

Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki recently ran a special project where they invited people in the community to fill out a survey.

The aim of the survey was “so it can help us shape what tomorrow looks like in this town.

“We received 260 responses, and 130 of these were youth.”

The youth responses talked about having the skills to get into work, such as CV preparation, and people supporting them.

One of the needs mentioned by the survey respondents was the need for mental-health services.

“We are busy and we are only going to get busier,” Heniti says. “We are only seeing expansion.”

below: Amelia playing foosball



above: (l-r) Trinity Cook, Dylan Cook and Livvy Murray filling boxes with lunches for Ōtaki’s school students.

below: Te Haemata caravan that provides a mobile youth space.



B

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BY VIVIENNE BAILEY

The Kilns at Te Horo seek resident potter

The Kilns at Te Horo are home to the relocated and restored beehive kilns of the late Te Horo-based potter, Mirek Smíšek. Sited on his former pottery, they provide both a resource for the local community and a visitor attraction.

Mirek’s contribution to ceramic arts imparted strength and freedom with a purpose – the bringing together of function and aesthetic – and he was accredited as the first craft potter in New Zealand to earn a living from his work.

Expressions of interest are invited for a resident potter (with studio and accommodation) at The Kilns at Te Horo. Applicants need to provide an outline of what they hope to achieve during the residency, including the type of work they want to undertake.

The upcoming six-month residency begins September 2024, and aims to advance Smíšek’s legacy, offering a ceramic artist a beautiful location connected to a vibrant

artistic community. The artist will work in the Doreen Blumhardt Studio and live in the adjacent heritage Te Horo Railway Station, now fully restored as living accommodation.

The residency will follow the current and first resident potter and artist, New Zealand-born, Sweden-based, Adrienne Riseley. Here specifically for the Te Horo residency, her work will be exhibited at Toi MAHARA in early May 2024.

Applications for a resident potter close 29 April 2024. For further information contact Jane Manthel, Co-chair, Mirek Smíšek Arts Trust ph 027 800 156.

The Kilns at Te Horo are located at Jim Winiata Lane, Te Horo, and are open to the public every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. www.thekilnsattehoro.co.nz or thekilnsattehoro@gmail.com

Strong community support for Te Horo Hall fundraising

Fundraising for the earthquake strengthening and refurbishment of Te Horo Hall took a

giant step forward with three recent events drawing large crowds.

Proceeds from a day of blackberry picking at Stanmore Farm, Settlement Road, raised a record-breaking \$3000.

“It was the best day and huge thanks go to Kate, Harry and Tim for sponsoring our event,” said hall committee member and coordinator, Deidre MacInnes.

Te Horo has a strong community of quizzers, and the hall “was pumping” for the first of the planned Quiz Nights with local quiz masters Graeme Baumgart and Alan Flaws leading participants through an eclectic world tour of questions, music clips and images.

“We had a 180-ticket sell-out,” said organiser, Lin McCarthy. “Everyone had so much fun.”

More than \$3000 was raised including raffle sales, with prizes donated by Penray Gardens and The Soap Box.

An al fresco lunch at Glenda and John Parker’s Old Hautere Road property raised \$4100. The 41 guests, seated under magnificent oak trees, enjoyed fine dining, good wines and entertainment.

“It was lovely to see people from our community having a great day out together,” said Glenda who praised the work of other helpers including Rachel Mason, Charlotte Boyer, Janice and Gary Rudings, Sonia and Mark Jenkins, Jo and Tim Boyer and Janet and Alan Cottle.

With fundraising in full swing, Andrew Annakin, Hall Society chairman said two grant applications had been lodged with the Lotteries Commission and one to the Nikau Foundation.

“With the help of Te Horo local Grant Robertson we’ve already secured a donation of \$3000 from Property Brokers, Ōtaki, for marketing and promotion.”

Further fundraising includes:

- The first walk of the Great Te Horo Road Rai\$e Walking Series begins on Easter Sunday, 31 April, 10.00am at Te Horo Hall. It will be followed by different walks through various Te Horo farms every Sunday until 5 May.
- BBQs at Penray Gardens, Friday 29 March – 31 March, 11.00am to 3.00pm.
- Quiz Night Te Horo Hall, Thursday 4 April 7.00 to 10.00pm.

For further information:

www.tehorohall.org.nz

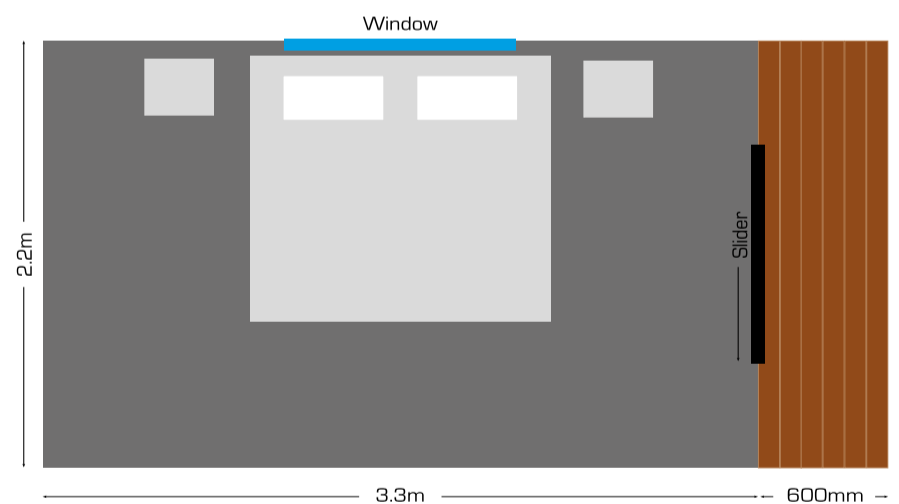
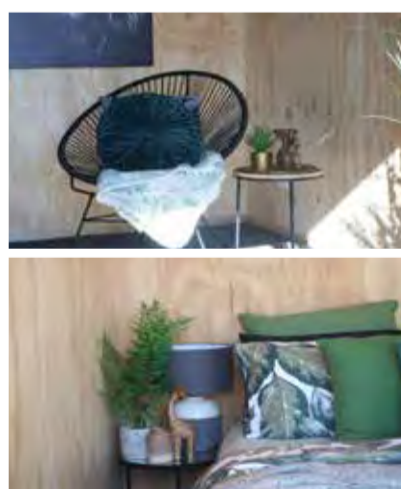
Drinks and Nibbles

Friday 5 April 5.00pm to 8.00pm at Te Horo Hall. BYO drinks and a plate of nibbles to share.

below: **Kate Gibbs of Stanmore Farm**



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above: Mirek Smíšek demonstrating, c.1970 (image: The Kilns Trust)



above: the Doreen Blumhardt Studio at The Kilns at Te Horo (image: The Kilns Trust)

Ōtaki hapū presents Treaty claims before Waitangi Tribunal

Amidst current discussions around the Treaty of Waitangi, Ōtaki witnessed a significant event showcasing the essence of this historic agreement. The Waitangi Tribunal convened at Te Pou o Tainui Marae, Ōtaki, to hear the Treaty claims of Ngāti Kapu and the Baker whānau.

Ngāti Kapu spokesperson Whare Akuhata expressed optimism about this process, highlighting the opportunity for his hapū to articulate their Treaty grievances. He noted that while the Waitangi Tribunal can only make recommendations to the government, the process provides a platform for iwi to voice their historical injustices, which are often undervalued in settlement agreements.

The tribunal hearings at Te Pou o Tainui

Marae offered Ngāti Kapu the chance to share narratives of land confiscation, language loss, and the enduring social and economic impacts of colonisation. This process has allowed the hapū to delve into their history, engaging their own experts, researchers and renowned historians.

Dr Terina Raureti and Heniti Buick were among the speakers, presenting Ngāti Kapu aspirations and visions for the future. Accompanied by Dion Palamountain – who created a visual representation of Ngāti Kapu potential if historical injustices had not occurred – they aimed to showcase the positive outcomes that could be achieved with the right resources.

The hearings in Ōtaki marked the 14th

sitting of the Waitangi Tribunal, focusing on the grievances of a confederation of iwi including Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Tukorehe, Ngāti Kauwhata, Te Reureu, and Ngāti Wehiwehi. Collectively known as Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, they represent a significant population in the Manawatū–Horowhenua–Kāpiti region. They originally migrated from the Waikato area in the early 1800s along with Ngāti Toa and some Taranaki iwi.

The hearings started 18 March and ran through to 21 March.

The Ngāti Raukawa confederation's Tribunal hearings are one of the largest Treaty of Waitangi claims, which began in 2020 and were to conclude in Ōtaki. Originally lodged in 1989 by kaumātua Whata Karaka Davis, Ngārongo Iwikatea Nicholson, Te Maharani Jacob and Pita Richardson, the claim represents the shared history of iwi who migrated to the area alongside Ngāti Toa, Te Āti Awa and others during the early 19th Century.

[source: Ngāti Kapu]

below: organisers Mereana Winterburn and Donna-Marie Overend have been working tirelessly at the marae to prepare for the tribunal hearing, embodying the dedication and effort of the community in ensuring the success of this significant event.



Taking Ōtaki's pulse

The HART Act 2004 and a call to arms

BY ANN CHAPMAN

Let me tell you a story. A story of fear, anguish, and miracles. Followed by a sequel of fear, anguish and anger.

It is a story about a boy who was 16 when he got leukaemia ten years ago. A boy who went through multiple courses of chemotherapy.

First, one course failed to arrest the disease. Then the second also failed and finally a third, harder and stronger drug also failed. This 16-year-old went through ten months of pain, of fear, of illness and of feeling the sickness of leukaemia and also the sickness of the poisons dripped into his arm to try and save him. Of being surrounded by his family and carers and guardians. He had to have someone with him every hour of the day watching for a spike in his temperature and then a resulting rush to the hospital.

We had a card; a special card. A 'go straight through' card with an emergency number on it. A phone call and a rush to hospital would see this young man rushed straight through into critical care. One small miracle was that we never had to use it, although there were times he had to spend days in hospital tied up to a drip.

His consultant told him, 'you may die.' And there were many times during those ten months that this boy felt like death. Felt the soft caress of death's hand across his brow.

Plan A was chemotherapy but the treatment with chemicals was a total failure. So, this young man embarked on Plan B. A bone-marrow transplant. His full brother was not a match. His father was not tested because this boy's mother was from Uruguay and her blood contained the Spanish gene, not compatible with our family's blood type. And we didn't know then that male blood didn't react positively to female blood, so

the women in the family were not tested either.

A search was made of the International Donor Banks. There was no match. Plan B was also a failure.

Plan C was to search the Stem Cell Donor banks for a match. One was found. Not a full match but enough of a percentage to make it viable. A small cup of donated placenta blood from a baby in New York was couriered to Auckland where it was dripped into our 16-year-old. But before that could happen he had to be blasted with everything medicine could throw at him. Radiotherapy and yet more chemotherapy effectively killed everything in him.

Leukaemia cells are tricky little things. They lurk and hide in the testicles and the brain stem. Over the next few days and weeks while lying in hospital his blood counts slowly rose until finally he was allowed home. Thanks to the kindness and forethought of strangers in New York this boy's life was saved. That this family would think to lodge a sample of their placental blood in an international blood bank for the use of others is a remarkable act of kindness.

He shouted, 'freedom,' as he left the hospital. The next months were a kind of freedom – a closely monitored one – but it seemed the stem-cell transplant had taken, and this young man got on with his life. He finished school. He went to university. He partied. He made up for lost time and he grew into a considerate and cheerful young man.

That was the miracle: a miracle of modern science. A miracle of medicine and care. A miracle that he went through it all uncomplaining and accepting.

Before he started chemotherapy he

stored some straws of semen in a facility designed for such things, preparing for the day when he may want to start a family. Teenage years passed, and into his twenties he began a relationship. This relationship was still young when the miracle was lost.

A letter from the fertility clinic arrived to say his semen was about to be destroyed. Because of a change in address, he'd missed that original letter but did get the second one. His ten years storage was up. Why? Because of section 10 of the HART Act. (HART stands for the Human Assisted Reproductive Technology.) Who knew there was such a thing? We didn't, and section 10 has a ten-year limitation on storage. Section 10 states: Restriction and prohibition on further storage of human in vitro embryos and human in vitro gametes stored for applicable period (10 years and extensions).

'This is a matter of human rights and natural justice,' I said when his shattered father rang to ask for advice. 'You need a lawyer and to get in touch with the Human Rights Commission.' I found a lawyer experienced in such matters after an approach for advice from a lawyer friend. Our lad was not the first this had happened to and there was precedence for the storage to be extended.

But this takes time and money. It is stressful and distressing. The lawyer was \$400 an hour. The Ethics Committee, which meets to determine these things, didn't meet regularly and there was no guarantee they would agree to an extension. And we had a time limit, so we had to act quickly.

Our family had the resources to act. The knowledge of what to do and how to do it. We had the money to

pay for a specialist lawyer. But not all families are so lucky. Not all families would know how to go through the process to overturn such an arbitrary decision, nor the stamina to see it through.

While the lawyer acted, so did we – on another plan should our application for an extension fail. We looked for other storage facilities. There are no others in New Zealand, so we looked to Australia. We would be able to use that facility. It costs. We also had to find a designated courier who has permission to carry live gametes stored correctly in a mobile carrier. That also costs.

This essay is a call to arms for those families. To get section 10 of the HART Act amended so that some allowance is made for young men and women who have had an illness, while in their teens or twenties, which not only nearly kills them but destroys their ability to have a family later in life. An arbitrary ten years is long enough for middle-aged men but not for those in their teens and twenties.

Because, in this case the Ethics Committee on Human Assisted Reproductive Technology declined the application for an extension, and has therefore effectively denied this young man's human rights.

Let's get the HART Act amended so that young men and women who lose their ability to have a family while under the age of 30 do not have to fight for that right later in life. It is a double jeopardy. It is about human rights and natural justice.

The HART Act and a Call to Arms. And I am just a grandmother in her late seventies who may, or may not, have the years ahead to get the Act amended.

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New health targets announced

The Government has announced health targets for cancer treatment, child immunisation, emergency departments, and wait times for first specialist assessments and elective treatment. Faster cancer treatment – 90% of patients receive cancer management within 31 days of the decision to treat. There will also be:

- Improved immunisation – 95% of children fully immunised at 24-months of age.
- Shorter stays in emergency departments (ED) – 95% of patients admitted, discharged or transferred from an ED within 6 hours.
- Shorter wait times for first specialist assessment – 95% of patients wait less than 4 months for a first specialist assessment.
- Shorter wait times for elective treatment – 95% of patients wait less than 4 months for elective treatment.

By setting ambitious health targets, the Government will stabilise services and provide the focus needed to make improvements. It will be challenging for the sector and take time, but targets will help lift health system performance.

We know the difficulties the system faces – eg. the increasing complexity of delivering healthcare, workforce demands and an ageing population. These

need to be addressed to improve access to services. It could take many years of focus to meet the targets.

Health New Zealand’s role is to look at ways to innovate and improve the delivery of health services that will make a difference to New Zealanders. It is expected to focus on improving performance in locations and services which have longer waits or low levels of achievement.

“ Shorter wait times for elective treatment ”

Clinical experts will be expected to provide commentary and advice on performance and what is being done to improve areas that are performing below expectations.

Health targets were in place from July 2007 to June 2020. They have previously supported all parts of the health system to be clear on priority areas and improve performance while maintaining clinical quality. They also support public accountability and greater trust and confidence in the health system.

Previous targets sometimes resulted in comparisons across 20 district health boards. New Zealand now has Health New Zealand as the national service provider. The targets will be reported nationally, regionally and by population groups where possible. They will take effect from 1 July 2024 with the first quarterly results available beginning with Quarter 1 2024/25. The target programme will have an appropriate level of audit mechanisms to ensure there are no unintended consequences as a result of a focus on specific areas.

Monitoring of health targets will sit within a wider suite of monitoring on health system performance by the Ministry. *Source: MoH*

Tips for a healthy heart

- Eat a healthy, balanced diet
- Keep to a healthy weight
- Do regular exercise
- Quit smoking
- Get your heart checked

P2 comprehensive range of health services

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

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

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

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

Water Fluoridation court decision update

A High Court judgment has kept in place directions issued to local authorities to fluoridate drinking water supplies.

The judgment has also directed the Director-General of Health to assess whether each of the directions for local authorities is a demonstrably justified limit on the right of persons in those districts to refuse medical treatment. That right is provided for in section 11 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

The Director-General will assess each direction as directed by the Judge. In the meantime, the Court has confirmed that each of those directions remain in place.

In June 2022, the Director-General directed 14 local authorities across New Zealand to fluoridate 19 drinking water supplies. This was the first time such directions were issued, following changes to the Health Act in 2021

that enabled the Director-General to make this decision.

This most recent judgment follows a judgment on a preliminary issue in November last year that found the Director-General made an error of law by not explicitly considering rights under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 in making a decision on each of those directions.

However, this most recent judgment found that the directions issued in 2022 will remain in place while the Director-General assesses the substantive consistency of the directions with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

The Ministry of Health will continue to update the local authorities that are under direction about the implications of the judgment and the outcome of the Bill of Rights Act assessments.



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Ōtaki Update

April 2024

Māori Economic Development and Major Events Funds open for applications

Got what it takes to run a major event that boosts the Kāpiti economy?

Major Events Fund

Our Major Events Fund is now open for applications with \$83,000 available. This year we've earmarked up to \$38,000 to support the growth of medium-sized events with the potential to grow.

The contestable fund supports major events that bring economic benefits to the district by attracting visitors and supporting the local economy.

► **Applications close 21 April. Visit kapiticoast.govt.nz/majoreventsfund to find criteria and to apply.**

Māori Economic Development Fund

There is still time for Kāpiti whānau, hapū, iwi, ngā mātāwaka and Māori business to apply to the Māori Economic Development Fund, which closes on 7 April.

The Fund aims to support growing the wealth and prosperity of Kāpiti Māori and is open to those starting out or in growth mode.

As Kāpiti Business Hall of Fame member John Barrett says, up-and-coming Māori businesses should put their best foot forward and apply.

"Prospective applicants should embrace the chance to be part of the growing Māori economy in our district – there is plenty of opportunity to contribute to the economy and environment," Mr Barret says.

► **Visit kapiticoast.govt.nz/maori-ed-grant to find criteria and apply.**



Artist registration closes soon for 2024 Art Trail

It's that time again! We're calling on local artists to sign up to be part of our iconic Kāpiti Coast Art Trail in 2024, held over the first two weekends in November.

Artists can choose to open their own studio like Pou (Mrs Pots, Ōtaki Beach), pictured, or join up with others in informal or permanent shared spaces or galleries.

The Art Trail benefits the whole district – last year visitors spent about \$750,000 on art alone!

► **Applications close Sunday 31 March. Apply online at kapiticoastarttrail.co.nz**



Ōtaki Pool – Kāpiti Coast's best kept secret not so secret

We'd like to send a big ngā mihi to everyone who has come to Ōtaki Pool in the past year.

We've been working hard to make the pool as welcoming and inclusive as possible and are delighted to have seen a 43 percent jump in visitor numbers in the past year.

We love the Ōtaki Pool complex and its surrounds and are stoked to be sharing it with more of the community.

If you haven't checked it out, dive in today! Nau mai, haere mai!

► **Check us out at kapiticoast.govt.nz/otaki-pool or find us on Facebook.**



Have your say on the Long-term Plan 2024–34

'Building a resilient future for Kāpiti' is the focus of the Long-term Plan (LTP).

The LTP matters because it sets your rates and describes what services, facilities and infrastructure Council can afford and plans to deliver.

Like everyone, we're facing inflation and price rises, but we are also carrying huge debt and interest costs. We need to reduce our debt so we can borrow more if we need to, such as for something unexpected on the scale of Cyclone Gabrielle or the Kaikōura earthquake.

► **The LTP's due out for consultation any day now. Check it out at haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/LTP**



Have your say

How would you like to be represented?

Following the decision to establish a Māori ward last year, we're now running a representation review. Collectively, councillors determine the district's overall strategic direction, approve budgets, set rates, and make bylaws, policies and plans aimed at meeting community needs. That's why it's important to tell us how you would like to be represented.

- Have we got the right number of councillors?
- Should they be elected from wards, districtwide, or a combination of both?
- Do we have the right boundaries for our wards and what should the new Māori ward boundary look like?

- Should councillors, including the new Māori ward councillor, report back to community boards?
- How could the general and Māori ward(s) fit together?

Your feedback will help shape Council's initial representation arrangement proposal that we'll come back to you for consultation on later this year.

Find more information on our website and have your say by filling out our survey online, on paper, or in person at one of our libraries or service centres before 2 April.

► **Consultation closes 2 April. To find out more visit: haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/RepresentationReview**



What's your vision for health and wellbeing on the Kāpiti Coast?

We've heard our community's concerns about access to health services in our district. This is why we're working on a new health strategy that will consider the unique needs of our community and can inform Council's future decisions.

We want you to help us identify the challenges our community faces as well as the collective aspirations for our future.

Consultation is open until Saturday 20 April. Have your say by filling out our survey online or find a paper copy at one of our libraries or service centres.

► **Consultation closes 20 April. Read our Health Strategy 'direction of travel' document here: kapiticoast.govt.nz/kapiti-coast-health**



Our new reservoir makes a splash at Waitohu School

Our project team went back to school in March, teaching students about the Ōtaki Reservoir Project. It's an ideal learning opportunity, with the pipelines being laid along Te Manuao Road right next to Waitohu School.

Students learned about the benefits of reservoirs and how they're built, and will follow up with a site visit in April. They'll also be able to get their hands dirty in June when they help plant some of the 2,500 native trees as part of the community-designed planting plan to screen the reservoir.

This project is supported by government funding through the Infrastructure Acceleration Fund. It will increase our water storage and improve our fire-fighting capability.

► **For more information visit kapiticoast.govt.nz/otaki-reservoir**



Recycle old batteries at Ōtaki Library

Did you know that old batteries have valuable materials that can be recycled after they go flat? About 99 percent of their components may be able to be reused in new batteries or steel building reinforcing rods.

To extend the life of these resources, we've expanded our household battery recycling trial to Ōtaki Library. As long as they're not damaged or leaky you can drop off normal household batteries in our custom-made cabinet (thanks Menzshed!). Recyclable batteries include: lithium-ion or Li-ion (including rechargeable), nickel cadmium and alkaline AA/AAA, C, D, and N batteries, and silver zinc hearing aid batteries.

► **Read about battery disposal at kapiticoast.govt.nz/RecyclingSafeDisposal**



Epic battle to decide tennis title

BY FRANK NEILL

Xavier Nikora is the 2024 Ōtaki Sport Club's junior tennis champion following an epic battle with Elsie O'Sullivan on 15 March.

After the nail-biter was tied at one set each the match went to a super tiebreaker decider.

This was a first-to-10-points encounter, with the winner having to record a minimum two-point advantage.

Elsie held a massive 9-3 lead and needed just one more point to secure the title.

However Xavier slowly pulled himself back into contention, and after a mammoth battle he won the decider 11-9.

The final was a repeat of last year's final where Xavier also took the victory against Elsie.

This year's beaten semi-finalists Stanley Butler and Angus Mecoy played off for third and fourth on 15 March with Angus securing the win.

Xavier and Angus defeated Stanley and Jessica Wilkinson in the junior club championship doubles final, played a week earlier.

This year's junior club championships was the second this century, following its launch last year.

The club's tennis captain Adam Shelton says the event was expanded in 2024 to include a qualifier event for the up and coming younger juniors, and a 9-year-old and an 11-year-old had won through to the main draw where they acquitted themselves well.

The club had also for the first time opened the 2024 senior club champs to its top junior interclub players with a 15-year-old in the women's singles and two 14-year-olds in the women's doubles.

"It's important we provide meaningful competition opportunities for our up and coming players," Adam says.

This year the club saw membership reach 110 affiliated tennis players, passing 100 for the first time in many years and up from just 28 affiliated players five years ago.

The big increase in numbers is allowing more people to find good opportunities to play tennis, be it social or competitive, at a level that suited them, Adam says.

Ōtaki 1, the defending Wellington Mixed A grade Tennis champions, won three of its last four encounters.

The team of Craig Eves, Leonie Campbell, Hannah Grimmett, Tom Caines, Adam Shelton Jodie Lawson and Jackie Gould defeated Karori United 6-0 on 24 February.

They then lost to the table topping Churton Park Spicers 2-4 on 2 March, before bouncing back to defeat Newlands Paparangi 1 5-1 on 9 March.

In its final match of the season it beat Waikanae Beach 5-1 on 16 March.

Ōtaki's number 2 women's doubles team won one of its last four matches and only lost one on a countback.

They defeated Island Bay 4-0 on 12 March and tied 2-2 with Pukerua Bay 2 on 5 March but lost on the countback.

The Ōtaki Sports Club's junior teams have also recorded some victories over the past month.

A local derby featured in the Kapi Mana mixed A grade competition when Ōtaki Kamaha met the Ōtaki Hit and Misses on 9 March.

The scores were tied at 3-3, with Kamaha winning on a countback.

Kamaha also defeated Whitby Green on a countback after the match was tied 3-3 on 16 March.

They were on the other end of a countback on 2 March, however, with Titahi Bay Hot Shots winning after the scores were tied at 3-3.

The mixed C grade team, Ōtaki Māhuri, is proving the club's most successful junior team of the season.

The team of team of Hunter Pritchard, Maapihi Pritchard, Max Beauchamp and Oliver Martin completely overwhelmed Whitby Yellow 8-0 on 16 March.

That gave it two successive victories as Māhuri won its 9 March match against Waikanae Beach Rally Cats 4-2.

below: Ōtaki's junior tennis champion Xavier Nikora and runner-up Elsie O'Sullivan



Titans collect huge haul of medals

BY FRANK NEILL

Three Ōtaki Titans swimmers came away with four gold medals, three silver medals and one bronze medal at the Manawatu Open Swimming Championships.

Phoebe Nelson picked up three of the gold medals in the event, held at the Lido Pool, Palmerston North on 1,2 and 3 March.

Phoebe touched the wall first in the 50 metres freestyle, 50 metres backstroke and the 100 metres freestyle.

Koroko Frost was the other Titan to secure a gold medal when he won the 50 metres backstroke.

He added three silver medals to his tally in the 50 metres butterfly, 100 metres backstroke and 50 metres freestyle.

Imogen Waite was also in the medals when she finished third in the 50 metres freestyle.

Five Titans have qualified for the New Zealand Open Championships to be held at the Hawke's Bay Regional Aquatic Centre from 9 to 13 April.

Phoebe Nelson has qualified in five events, the 50 metres butterfly, the 50 metres backstroke and the 50 metres, 100 metres and 200 metres freestyle.

Imogen Waite has qualified in three events, the 50 metres and 100 metres backstroke and the 50 metres freestyle.

Kokoro Frost has qualified in five events, the 50 metres and 100 metres backstroke, the 50 metres and 100 metres butterfly and the 50 metres freestyle.

Noah Ireland-Spicer has qualified in four, the 50 metres backstroke, the 50 metres breaststroke and the 50 metres and 100 metres freestyle.

Jacob Winter has qualified in the 50 metres backstroke.

While the five are preparing for the national open championships Titans swimmers are also preparing under coach John Winter for the New Zealand Age Group Championships which will be held at the Hawke's Bay Regional Aquatic Centre from 15 to 19 April.

The squad of Titans swimmers training at the Paraparaumu Swimming Pool recently had the pleasure of meeting with Paralympian Cameron Leslie.

below: the Titans swimmers with Paralympian Cameron Leslie at the Paraparaumu Swimming Pool.



Successful Summer fundraiser for Waka Hoe Worlds squad



above: Waka Hoe U19 squad members Stella Park and w serve tasty treats to guests



above: Summer concert-goers enjoy the private garden setting on Atkinson Avenue.



above: Donated artworks for the fundraiser auction

Ōtaki Waka Hoe Charitable Trust kicked off their 2024 World Sprint campaign with their first big fundraiser, a summer garden concert at Ōtaki beach. Guests were treated to live music, delicious food and great company. In support of the event, Jacki Tesoriero and Jason Pettigrew provided the perfect venue, opening their beautiful home and 1.5 acre garden. Concert-goers like Ōtaki College Performing Arts teacher Joanna Devane were not put off by showers earlier in the day. ‘We were kept dry, warm, fed and entertained with wonderful live Country and Blues music. The food was amazing. Our hosts even came around afterwards with blankets when it got a little colder in the evening. Such great manaakitanga!’

Feature act, renown blues artist Grant Haua flew in from Tauranga astounding the audience with his distinctive blues–roots style. ‘Grant treated us to some amazing

virtuoso blues playing. His fingers moved so quickly; the audience was transfixed.’ Joanna also commended local music legend, Carylann Martin who stunned audiences with violinist Richard Taylor and their memorable ‘Squeezebox’ performance.

Local artists donated beautiful art pieces for the silent auction with bids climbing well into the hundreds. The Trust wishes to acknowledge artists Sue Lund, Lulu Maru-Hill, Paula Archibald, Donna Clarke, Lana Woodford, Eddie Douglas and Rod Graham for giving so generously to the fundraiser. Kelly & Co Real Estate, Ōtaki, have sponsored the three world-qualifying teams and provided gazebos for the event along with Melanie Doyle’s delicious catering.

While the Trust is actively seeking sponsorship to help get their teams to the World Sprint Championships in Hilo,

Hawaii, in August this year, all paddlers are rolling up their sleeves. Among the many sporting codes in Ōtaki, Waka Ama does not attract big sponsorship, despite their success at international championships. Paddlers will do anything from catering to selling raffle tickets and assisting with event management all squeezed in between study, work and training.

Next up, the Ōtaki Waka Hoe World squad have launched Great New World Trolley Dash in early March. \$20 buys a chance to win one of 3 great prize draws. A 2-minute, 90-second or 60-second grocery grab at Ōtaki New World. Teams will be selling tickets online, at the Sunday Market or at Ōtaki Post Shop and Ōtaki Mobil.

Following the Trolley Dash will be the Autumn Housie Night, supported by Ōtaki RSA.

For more information about the fundraiser and how to sponsor the Ōtaki Waka Hoe World’s Squad, contact:

Angela Park at 021 166 0657.



story and images supplied

below: Grant Haua of Tauranga astounded the audience with his blues–roots style



below: talented Violinist Richard Taylor with singer–songwriter–music teacher Carylann Martin



below: locally based Carylann Martin stunned the crowd with her solo performance and duet with violinist Richard Taylor





Gardening with

Garden tasks for April



Watson's Garden Ltd

Autumn has arrived! We are seeing more rain and the ground is still warm, so now is the time to get trees and shrubs established. For Autumn colour we have Nandina with its striking foliage. The Ericas are in bloom and Camellias are in bud. We have a wide range of products for you to choose from and look forward to seeing you!



NB We will be closed Thursday 25 April for Anzac Day.

Gift vouchers, giftware, tools, pots, garden and pest products available all year round

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17 Bell Street Ōtaki (06) 364 8758

www.watsonsgarden.co.nz

Flower garden

Trim back summer perennials when flowering has finished. These can be dug up, divided and replanted, or just wait for them to sprout back again in spring.

If you want red or orange hips for winter colour, now is the time to stop deadheading your roses.

New season's roses will begin arriving soon – prepare your planned planting area with compost.

Prune back any flowering shrubs, such as hebe and hydrangeas, that have finished flowering.

This is your last chance to get spring bulbs, such as daffodils, freesias, crocus, lachenalia and hyacinths planted.

Autumn is the best time to plant new trees and shrubs so they can become established over the cold, wet winter months (add general fertiliser at planting time).

It is the perfect time to remove spent summer flowering annuals and to plant your favourite winter flowers.

Plant out primulas, polyanthus, snapdragon, cinerarias, nemesias, violas, calendula, stock, hollyhocks and Iceland poppies.

Sow seeds of aquilegia, calendula, viola, statice, cornflower, alyssum, godetia, linaria, dianthus, lobelia, lupin, snapdragon, English and Livingstone daisy.

Fruit and vegetable garden

Harvest the last of your late summer veggies – pumpkins, marrows, potatoes and onions and store in a cool, dry place.

If you've got a sheltered, frost-free spot plant another crop of potatoes – a potato planter will allow you to grow them in a warm area of your garden or patio.

If you've planted leeks for winter eating, pile up soil around the stems to provide support and keep the stem white.

Sow seeds of beetroot, broccoli, broad beans, turnips, Swedes, cabbage, carrots, spinach, radish and onions.

Plant out your seedlings of broccoli, spinach, silverbeet, lettuce, celery, leeks and cauliflower.

Overcrowded rhubarb crowns will need to be dug up, divided and replanted into compost-enriched soil.

Feed all citrus with citrus tree fertiliser to promote strong, healthy autumn growth – apply to dripline and water in well afterwards.

Once leaves on stone and pip fruit have begun to drop, prune and seal cuts with pruning paste. Collect and dispose of all leaves into your compost bin.

Lawns

April is the best time for sowing a new lawn or repairing your existing one. Mix Saturaid with your lawn seed and spread over the area – this will improve water penetration through the soil and reduce dry patches.

Mow lawns more regularly – as rain becomes more frequent, feed with lawn fertiliser.

Second thoughts

Hyacinth bulbs look great planted in pots or special hyacinth jars but leave them outside during their growing period (they will become soft and leggy if kept inside). When bulbs begin to flower in spring bring them inside so you can enjoy their colour and perfume in the house.

Focus on carrots & parsnips

After you've tasted the earthy sweetness of carrots and parsnips pulled from your own garden those supermarket ones may never taste quite the same. These hearty root vegetables can be grown nearly all year round although winter cold slows their growth. The soil acts as an outdoor refrigerator, keeping vegetables crisp and nutrient rich.

The ideal way to grow carrots and parsnips is from seed though it is possible to transplant seedling. Choose a sunny spot and whether you dig your own or buy bags of growing mix, soil is the key – it should drain well and have a loose, even texture. While deformed carrots (which still taste good) have a certain quirky appeal, if you hanker after neat, tapered specimens that are easy to peel, you'll need to remove lumps of compacted soil and stones – these send young taproots growing in all directions. A bed of fine, crumbly soil is best preferably where a well-fertilised crop of leafy greens has previously grown.

Excessive fertiliser, especially nitrogen, will also lead to warped carrots. Just apply a side dressing of balanced general garden fertiliser or liquid feed once carrots are growing.

Once the seedlings are around 3-5cm tall it's time to sacrifice a few plants to make room for others to grow. Leave about 2-3cm between each seedling and as plants grow, thin some more and eat the seedlings (for a continuous supply sow every 3-4 weeks).

Carrots come in a range of shapes, sizes and colour and there's some interesting heritage varieties. Try the

nineteenth century 'Paris Market,' a small, round carrot (shaped like a radish) which matures early and is popular with kids (because of its size). Carrots are only 2.5cm to 4cm in diameter when fully mature (cover their shoulders to prevent greening). 'Purple Dragon' is another heirloom, with a sweet, spicy taste, which produces medium length carrots in a variety of colours including dark violet and reddish purple.

Parsnip seed is very short-lived so it's best to use fresh seed – check date on seed packets. Even with fresh seed and perfectly prepared soil, seed can take a long time to germinate. A good idea is to sow rows of radishes as markers between the parsnips. Radishes will be ready to eat when parsnips are ready for thinning.

Parsnips are very cold-resistant and can be stored in frozen ground until you're ready to eat them. But do harvest before growth starts in spring or your parsnips will turn woody and unpalatable.

The variety 'Hollow Crown' is recommended for late summer sowing and is a traditional favourite. The large, tapering roots are creamy, tender and sweet tasting. The French heirloom (pre 1826) 'Guernsey' is a reliable, sweet-tasting variety that produces large tops and needs a good 30-40cm elbow room in each direction – the more room you give them the larger they'll grow.

For more information about carrot and parsnip varieties, go to www.yates.co.nz and www.kingseeds.co.nz (available from Otaki Hydroponics, State Highway 1)

TE HORO GARDEN CENTRE



FEIJOAS – six varieties to choose from including Bambino a dwarf variety suitable for pots. Plant a couple of varieties to fruit from March through to June

AGONIS – AFTER DARK Evergreen tree with an arching-weeping habit. Bright red willow-like leaves mature to dark wine burgundy. Small white flowers spring/summer. Coastal tolerant. 8m x 5m



EUCALYPTUS – BABY BLUE An evergreen tree with an open spreading habit. Powdery blue leaves that are excellent as cut foliage in flower arranging. Hardy to cold and wind.

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the Ōtaki Mail

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

Plumbago for Autumn blues

If you love the look of blue in your garden, the sky-blue flowered Cape plumbago, or Cape leadwort (*Plumbago auriculata*), is an old favourite. It's an easy-care, rapid-growing, great performing shrub which almost looks after itself, thriving in a sunny situation with well-drained soil, so perfect for coastal gardens though try to plant in a spot sheltered from seaside breezes.

The evergreen, semi-climbing shrub (1.5 x 1m) from the Plumbaginaceae family, is native to South Africa (particularly around Natal and Eastern Cape). It has long slender stems, light to mid-green foliage (spoon shaped leaves with a smooth, delicate texture) and large tresses of brilliant, pale blue, phlox-like flowers. The blooms are tubular with five petals produced on the current season's wood, mainly during late summer and autumn (often flowering when many other plants have finished), and have a very thin tube at the back, attached to a hairy sticky calyx. It flowers best in a sunny position; blooms are somewhat reduced in a shady location.

Prune after flowering or any time during winter if you want a bushy, more compact plant. Tidy vigorous stems and remove old wood to encourage new growth and next season's flowers. When left to grow without pruning it forms an open shrub with graceful, arching branches (you can grow as a climber by tying branches to support structures such as trellis). The plant's semi-rambling tendencies make it ideal for covering or disguising a fence or wall that

annoys, or even a tree stump that you don't want to look at.

Plant next to pink-flowering shrubs for a lovely soft colour combination, or add plants with a stronger shape such as *Pittosporum tenuifolium* 'Golf Ball' or clipped *Buxus sempervirens* balls. You can provide different textural qualities with plants like *Phormium* 'Green Dwarf,' or other plants with spikey or strap-shaped foliage.

Plumbago 'Royal Cape' grows to about two metres, and once established takes summer drought in its stride, often performing better than usual in extended dry periods (my plant has been exceptional this dry summer). It flowers are a more intense blue, produced in profusion on a big, bushy shrub (it's sometimes hard to see the attractive green leaves). It's ideal as a background shrub, a perfect partner for lower-growing shrubs, perennials and annuals and be useful as an informal hedge or as a trimmed formal one.

Some interesting shrubs to grow in front include the dark blue *Dichora* 'Blue Sapphire,' another all-summer bloomer, and pink hebes, hydrangeas which could be white, blue, pink, or red, and dramatic silver foliage plants like our native *Astelia* 'Silver Spears.' Or you could create a Mediterranean feel by combining with olive trees and lavender.

There is a pretty, white-flowered version *Plumbago* 'Alba,' and a rosy, scarlet variety, which is smaller and less frost hardy.



Ivy-leaved cyclamen

Perhaps the best known among hardy cyclamens is *Cyclamen hederifolium* (previously known as *Cyclamen neopolitanum*). It is a small, dainty autumn-flowering bulb although flowers can start to appear as early as January from baked, parched soil. It prefers partially shaded areas with two to three hours of sunlight each day (though will grow in full sun), and looks lovely mass planted in front of shrubs, around trees and woodland gardens (you can overplant with annuals in summer).

The tuberous perennial produces dark-green leaves, in a variety of ivy like shapes, often marbled with silver on top and purple underneath. Foliage grows to 10cm and appears towards the end of flowering, resulting in an attractive ground cover through until early summer.

The fine elegant flowers come in a range of light to mid-pink, or pure white, with a dark centre (sometimes scented). They have the longest flowering season of the dainty species, blooming until the bulb goes dormant in late spring.

Native to woodland, scrub and rocky areas in the Mediterranean region, from southern France to Turkey and the Mediterranean islands, it is a robust (pest and disease free), hardy cyclamen growing in hard, poor conditions and tolerating both cold and heat. What it doesn't like is wet soil.

Good drainage is essential for these bulbs, and with suitable preparation and care bulbs will grow and flower well year after year. Prepare your planting site when soil is moist and easily worked (after first rains in autumn). Remove all weeds and incorporate bark, well-rotted compost or other organic material. Prevent water logging by incorporating a generous layer of gritty material such as coarse sand. Clay can also be broken up by adding gypsum and organic matter to soil. For heavy soils raise the level of beds and borders with extra topsoil and coarse pumice or sand. Plant bulbs when soil is moist and warm (in autumn or early spring) so that a good root system develops. Place tuber just below the surface in hummus-rich, well-drained soil. In spring apply organic fertiliser such as blood and bone, at a handful per square metre.

Avoid excessive summer moisture and mulch well when the leaves wither. Apply a balanced bulb fertiliser each spring.

The large, flat, disc-shaped bulbs are very long-lived, and

it's not uncommon to find older ones the size of a dinner plate (these older bulbs produce an amazing profusion of flowers).

If you can't find the bulbs for sale they are easy to grow from fresh seed, and generally seeds down in the garden. The secret is to sow immediately and not try and store seeds.

The species cyclamen has a gentle charm which tends to be lacking in the big-flowered hybrids such as the profuse flowering *C. persicum*, which are sold as house plants. However most of these will survive as garden plants, and live on if you find a suitable spot where they won't be in competition with overhanging plants.



Education: D-Day remembered at Ōtaki College

BY FRANK NEILL

The 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings at Normandy was commemorated at Ōtaki College at a ceremony on 8 March.

The commemoration was well attended and three Royal Navy veterans who served on D-Day were also present.

The three veterans were Derek Whitman, who travelled from Lower Hutt, Syd Webbs from Masterton and Stan Welch from Paraparaumu.

The D-Day landings took place at Normandy on 6 June 1944.

“The landings at Normandy ... marked a major step in bringing the Second World War to an end,” the Vice Regal Consort, Dr Richard Davies, said at the commemoration.

More than 150,000 soldiers, supported by more than 700 naval vessels, were involved in the operation.

At 6:30am the first of the soldiers landed and by the end of the day they had established a foothold on the beaches, Dr Davies said.

On D-Day the German troops facing the beaches would have seen the largest amphibious invasion in history, Ōtaki College Principal Andy Fraser said.

By the time of the landings the Second World War had been raging for five years, and there would be another year of fighting before the war ended.

Dr Davies was one of the official party, which also included the Chief of the New Zealand Navy, Rear Admiral David Proctor; Kāpiti Mayor Janet Holborow; Chair of Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki Denise Hapeta; President of the Arctic Convoy Club NZ, Derek Whitman; President of the New Zealand Shipping Association, Captain Roger Blake; President of the New Zealand Merchant Navy Association, Paul Baggott; Master of the New Zealand Company of Master Mariners, Captain Eric Good; Deputy British High Commissioner John Pearson; First Secretary at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Klaus Sattel; Sub Lieutenant Emman Wright on behalf of the Royal New Zealand Air Force; and executive committee member of the Ōtaki and District Memorial RSA, Wendy Mohan.

Father Phil Cody presided at the ceremony, which was organised by the College's Student Committee.

Music was provided by piper Murray Easton and the combined bands of the Salvation Army Levin and the Levin and Districts Brass Inc.

below: three D-Day veterans who attended the commemoration at Ōtaki College (l-r) Derek Whitman, Syd Webbs and Stan Welch



above: Navy Chief Rear Admiral David Proctor carries a wreath to lay

As well as a minute's silence, a series of wreaths were laid at the College's memorial for the SS Otaki.

Codenamed Operation Overlord, the D-Day landings are frequently referred to by historians as the beginning of the end of the Second World War.

Troops from the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, New Zealand and other countries invaded Normandy in northern France, supported by the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force.

At the time France was occupied by Nazi Germany.

During the day some 4,000 Allied troops were killed by German soldiers defending the beaches.



above: Kāpiti Mayor Janet Holborow about to lay a wreath commemorating D-Day

Despite the heavy losses Operation Overlord succeeded.

The Allies went on to liberate all of northern France by August 1944 and defeat the Germans by the spring of 1945.

Two New Zealand Merchant Navy ships, Monowai and Aorangi, played significant roles in the success of Operation Overlord.

A passenger liner converted into a troop ship, Monowai transported both troops and equipment.

Also converted into a troop ship, having previously been a luxury ocean liner, Aorangi also made a contribution to the invasion.



Ōtaki College

Student Centre/Accounts Administrator

We are seeking to appoint a part-time Administrator, commencing Term 2, 2024 (April) to work in our busy Office.

The successful applicant will have the following skills and attributes:

- Outstanding interpersonal skills and be a team player
- Experienced in using accounting software (Xero)
- Enthusiasm and motivation
- Well-developed IT skills
- Effective time management
- Proven experience working in a school would be an advantage.

The hours of work are 35 hours per week, term time only. Job sharing is a possibility.

Remuneration to be negotiated.

The position is subject to satisfactory Police Vetting.

Please contact the Principal's PA (Viv) 06 364 8204 ext 701, or vwt@otakicollege.school.nz, for an application form and job description.

Applications close on 12 April 2024.

Ōtaki College News

April 2024

www.otakicollege.school.nz

From the Principal

Staffing for Term Two

After 44 years of continuous service in education I have been given the opportunity to embark on a ten-week sabbatical. During this time I will be working closely with a number of schools in New Zealand and Australia to further our work around Deep Learning and Big Picture schools, which offer design components based on three foundation principles: first, learning must be based on the interests and goals of each student; second, students' curriculum must be relevant to the people and places that exist in the real world; and finally, a student's abilities must be authentically measured by quality assessments.

During my time away Hamish Wood will be Acting Principal and his position will be filled by our former Deputy Principal, Marion Lumley (.4) and Keremihana Heke (.6). This is also an opportune time to inform you that Keremihana will be welcomed into the Senior Leadership Team with a focus on co-ordinating and upskilling staff and students in Raukawatanga as well as implementing Huakina Mai, which is a Kaupapa Māori Schoolwide Initiative that sits within Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L). This initiative focuses on a relational approach where kaiako foster positive relationships within environments that are caring, inclusive, non-discriminatory and cohesive.

Andy Fraser, Principal

SS Otaki Commemoration

Along with many other distinguished guests, the College was delighted to welcome His Excellency Dr Richard Davies Vice Regal Consort, and Her Worship, Janet Holborow, Mayor of the Kāpiti Coast District, to the 2024, SS Otaki Commemoration, held on March 10. They were joined by Barbara Rudd representing Ngā Hapu o Ōtaki, Mr Derek Whitwam, (President, Arctic Convoy Club NZ) and other Club members, representatives of the Merchant Navy community, Mr John Pearson, Deputy British High Commissioner, Mr Klaus Sattel, First Secretary of the Federal Republic of Germany, Rear Admiral David Proctor, Chief of Navy, SLT Emma Whight, representing the New Zealand Airforce, and Ms Wendy Mohan, representing the Ōtaki District Memorial RSA.

The focus of the 2024 Commemoration was the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings. On 6 June 1944, known as D-Day, German soldiers standing on the slopes above the Normandy shoreline, and gazing out across

the English Channel, would have seen what has been described as 'the largest seaborne invasion in history.' In some of the ships in that invasion force, were teenage sailors who, 80 years later, were able to attend the Wreath Laying Service at Ōtaki College. Derek Whitwam had been involved in deception operations in HMS Berwick, Stan Welch was there in HMS Apollo and Syd Wells in HMS Magpie. Other Arctic Convoy Club members were represented by their families, including George Billing who passed away recently, aged 99. Principal Andy Fraser, acknowledged the members of the Arctic Convoy Club, noting that "their presence here today allows us to reflect that, while the long years since D-Day have diminished the numbers of these Second World War veterans, those years have served to add to the lustre of their achievements in that war."

BP Business Challenge 2024

Sixty Year 12 and 13 students took part in the BP Business Challenge during 13–15 March. They worked in teams over three days and came up with some awesome sustainable business ideas which they researched and presented to a series of judges, local business owners/community members, on the final day.

Comments from one judge were: "It was great to see the students step up. The top teams stood out for me as they were confident, worked well as a team, had great ideas that they believed in, knew what they were talking about and had thought out most aspects of their business."

The winners on the day were:

1st: Eco Armour, strong cases, sustainable choices: Harriet Georgetti, Savannah Lynn, JT Byrne, Devon Huisman, Jaybe Ackerman & Maddie Simpson.

2nd: Fits, second-hand clothing app: Keita Broughton-Alp, Rosie Thomsen, Louis Bevan, Ethan Kyle and Freddy Sayer.

3rd: Up Bag, recycled bags: Logan Boyer, Kita Kanavatoa, Ihnia Graham, Maraea Barriball and Keiyan Nootai.

The Individual Award for the student who stood out/stepped up the most during the three days was awarded to Logan Hughes.

A big thanks to the BP Challenge presenters Paul, Lambrini and Talister, and also to our judges: Rangi Esson, Simon Black, Janice Brown, Pera Barrett, Marion Lumley and Travis Robertson. Congratulations also to all the students who participated. You did an awesome job.

Steph Putt, Careers Advisor



below: (l-r) David Crump & Captain Roger Blake with Wreath Assistant Braxton Bevan-Jervis



below: (l-r) Principal Andy Fraser, His Excellency Dr Richard Davies with students Logan Boyer, Haki Ropata, Olivia Fogden and Maddie Simpson



below: BP Business Challenge winners, Eco Armour (l-r) Harriet Georgetti, Savannah Lynn, JT Byrne, Jaybe Ackerman & Maddie Simpson (absent, Devon Huisman)



below: (l-r) Navy salute the SS Otaki memorial sculpture



Mayor Holborow's report

BY JANET HOLBOROW

Waitangi Tribunal Hearings are winding up in Ōtaki, with hearings held over the past couple of weeks at Te Pou o Tainui. This is a pivotal time for Ngā Hapu o Ōtaki and Ngāti Raukawa as they go through this historic and important process. At Council, we're grateful for our relationship with Ngā Hapu o Ōtaki, and the Waitangi claims will in the future lead to so many opportunities for Ngā Hapu to provide for their people and the community. We look forward to strengthening our partnership and working together to maximise these opportunities.

One of these opportunities might be through the new Affordable Housing Entity, which was signed off by Council recently. The Trust will work in partnership with other organisations to advocate, facilitate and deliver a range of housing across the district, including a possible opportunity on Rangiuru Road, Ōtaki. Council will support the setting up of the Trust with administrative support, but the concept is

that it will operate independently, which will also allow it to apply for external funding.

As Ngā Hapu o Ōtaki met at Te Pou o Tainui, Māoriland Film Festival was kicking off with a pōwhiri at Raukawa Marae. The Marae grounds, and afterwards the wharekai, were full to capacity with film-makers, film-industry representatives and visitors from countries across the world, including many Pacific Islands, Kenya, Scandinavia, Hawaii, Taiwan and across Aotearoa.

As I write this, I'm particularly looking forward to the wide range of short films, including a local film about Whakaaro Whakairo: a carving and Toi Māori festival held at the Ōtaki Māori Racing Club late last year. The film is not only about the festival, but the life-changing effect of art on people.

Māoriland Film Festival has become an event that is significant for Ōtaki, for Kāpiti,

for the Wellington Region and Aotearoa. With film-makers coming from across the world, and taking their experiences back to their home countries, it's also a globally significant kaupapa.

On another note, it was great to once again attend the SS Otaki commemoration at Ōtaki College, which also marked the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

It was incredible to have a chat with veteran Syd Webbs, who was there on the day, and talk to him about his experiences, including remembering that before they landed they all had to write their last Will and Testament. Hearing a detail like that first-hand really brings home the terrifying experience that so many had that day, and continue to have in conflict and war.

Thanks to Ōtaki College for keeping these memories alive.



Out and about with Shell

BY SHELLY WARWICK – ŌTAKI WARD COUNCILLOR

It has been a busy month at Council with staff working very hard to get the Long-term Plan together for community consultation in April. The Long-term Plan sets out the budget and priorities for the next three

years, sets rates, and also establishes a workplan for Council. As with most councils in Aotearoa New Zealand, we are looking at a rates rise due to increases in costs of everything Council is invested in.

Please look out in the papers and on Kāpiti Coast District Council media for ways you can have your say on the draft Long-term Plan. Community engagement is vital to ensure we have our priorities right.

<https://haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/>

Also on 19 March we had our first big Ōtaki and Te Horo business network hui at the Railway Hotel. It was fantastic to see the turnout of business people from retail, rural, trades and industrial. A lot of work went into this from KCDC staff and the Ōtaki Community Board to ensure as many businesses as possible were aware and informed. This is an opportunity for businesses to collaborate and be a collective voice as we move forward with the revocation post PP20 and make the most of opportunities that might result from this work.

If you are a business and want to be engaged and kept in the loop you can email: economic.development@kapiticoast.govt.nz to be added to the contact list.

Ngā mihi nui whānau

Shelly Warwick



left: Ōtaki Community Board members (l-r) Cam Butler, Rob Kofoed, Jackie Elliott, Shelly Warwick (Ōtaki Ward Councillor) and Simon Black at a hui at the Railway Hotel, Ōtaki

Ōtaki Community Board

BY JACKIE ELLIOTT – ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER

There are many ways and levels upon which our community groups and the Ōtaki Community Board, with the support of Council, are working towards building our community resilience.

We live in a time where extreme weather and natural events can quickly cause life changing chaos; fortunately Kāpiti District seems to have avoided the worst of those so far. We have learnt through the pandemic and lockdowns that community resilience can be challenged from new angles, affecting our economic, emotional, health and mental wellbeing and our sense of resilience. It is no surprise that building community resilience has become a common theme across all sectors of the motu and offshore, too, in recent years.

We are all enduring high food prices and the Ōtaki Community Board has given multiple grants to groups that work towards food security and are enabling food sharing. My colleague and good mate Simon Black has written a recent column about this, showing how to access very cheap fresh food in our town. It's worth cutting out and keeping.

I would like to add the free public orchard in the railway station carpark: it was great

to be able to establish this orchard when I was first on the Board over 10 years ago and it is free fruit for everyone. Kind volunteers also supply the hot cobblers lunch to the community every Thursday in the supper room of the Memorial Hall.

We can thank our Ward Councillor Shelly Warwick for her innovative gate-side crop-sharing boxes. If you see one of these orange boxes outside a house, please help yourself to the crops that are being shared (but leave the orange box). If you want a box to share your crops in, please contact her at shelly.warwick@kapiticoast.govt.nz

Alongside the Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office (WREMO) we have prioritised building community resilience by encouraging household emergency-preparedness; how to safety plan to escape tsunami; and how and where to find help and be a help for your neighbours. Knowing your neighbours is key; that is why council supports initiatives like the Over the Fence Cuppa event.

Meanwhile, Council's infrastructure team are managing the major project of securing a resilient water supply of the future for Ōtaki with the building of two new reservoirs. And I look forward to visiting

the site alongside Waitohu School students in the coming weeks.

Lastly, and most importantly, maintaining our own personal resilience is key. That means knowing the importance of our own health and wellbeing, recognising when our stress levels are rising and a smile is hard to muster. Then it's time to say 'No', instead of always saying 'Yes' to the demands of others. It's important to give ourselves

valuable time-out from the day-to-day grind, whether it's a treat, a simple walk in the park, curling up with a good book or movie, or making time for a cuppa with someone who adds positivity to your day. Our personal resilience is the most precious resilience we can all look after.

Best wishes

Jackie Elliott



Zero Waste Ōtaki

BY DAVE MACINTYRE



Rose Siva is used to seeing examples of the innovative creations people come up with, when using recycled wood sourced from Zero Waste Ōtaki. She manages the ZWŌ Facebook page, which has 1200 members who regularly post photographs of what they have built.

Now Rose has employed that same spirit of creativity to turn her corrugated metal fence into 'A Door to an Alternative Universe'.

Faced with the boring blank façade of the fence at her home, she used it as a blank canvass to create an illusion of the front of a house, complete with door, windows, shutters and planter boxes.

A big fan of the famous Douglas Adams book *A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, where characters are transported across alternative galaxies, she used a recycled door frame and knocker to create a "door" which actually doesn't open – it is the corrugated fence behind the frame.

Recycled window frames add to the look and old cupboard doors were reinvented as shutters. Kitchen drawers were cut in half to create planter boxes beneath the windows.

To finish the look, old pallets were cut and repurposed to hold succulent plants. All the materials were sourced from Zero Waste Ōtaki.

Rose says the availability of recycled wood is a brilliant resource for DIY enthusiasts and artists.

"I saw my corrugated fence as a blank canvas and decided to do something creative and fun. With a bit of imagination it is possible to look at a space and design something that gives pleasure. The availability of the wood from ZWŌ makes it possible to do that in a very affordable way."

Our public Facebook page is regularly updated with photographs of things customers have built, along with interesting

items that have arrived on site and are available for purchase. This includes tables, louvres, interior and exterior doors, windows, chairs and other items as well as exterior and interior timber.

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.

At ZWŌ, wood is sorted into categories such as piles, fence posts, fence palings, decking, interior framing wood and plywood. Stacking, sorting and de-nailing is undertaken. Doors (both interior and exterior), beadings and trimmings, and a various other finished objects are stored in three containers on site.

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

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 (phone 028 852 09936).

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

below: a door to an alternative universe



Energise Ōtaki

BY EMILY MCDOWELL



We have 30 bikes ready to give away! If you or your child need a bike (or you would like to volunteer to fix them) please write to otakibikespace@gmail.com. The bikes will be matched to new owners, who can collect them on 6 April. Koha is appreciated. Last month, Ōtaki Bike Space joined forces with Low Carbon Kāpiti to fix donated bikes together. This is why we can share bikes now, not just at the end of the year. Because more hands make bikes work. Please consider joining us so we get even more out the door (no experience necessary).

Ōtaki Repair Café held its biggest-ever event last month. Thirty-one volunteers, including four children, gave 113 hours fixing 170 items – an 86% success rate.

That diverted over half a tonne of goods from being dumped in landfill.

The most remarkable fix-it was Monkey's (pictured). Monkey is at least 50 years old. Rowena Mustard loved him as a child. Somewhere across the years Monkey lost a

paw. In a collision of eras and collaboration of skilled volunteers, Monkey's now had his new 3D-printed paw sewn on.

That's good luck for you, Monkey.

Feeling the cold yet? Warm Up Ōtaki's Matt Brenin has found that many homes here have just a thin layer of insulation and that their owners qualify for a subsidy to top-up ceiling insulation. Identifying where money can be saved and resources are available is part of Matt's assessment work.

Warm Up Ōtaki assessments are free for home-owning community-services-card (CSC) holders and their housemates. Matt also checks out heating, drainage, draughts, curtains, even mould. (We hope your home doesn't have mould.) Matt can look to replace lights with energy-efficient LED bulbs and make sure you're getting a good deal from your power company – a potential saving of hundreds of dollars.

For non-CSC holders, there's our new Pay It Forward scheme. Starting from \$250, you

decide how much to pay for the check-up on your home's health and energy efficiency. Every (tax-deductible) dollar above \$200 goes towards another family's home assessment. Way to share the warmth.

left: (l-r) 3D-printer owner Fern Campbell, Monkey, Monkey's owner Rowena Mustard



The Rongoā Space

BY JOANNE HAKARAIA-OLSON

Rongoā of the Month PŪRIRI

Pūriri (*Vitex lucens*) is a great lady of mana. The slender blooms mirror Snapdragon blossoms, painted in hues ranging from vibrant pink to deep red, delicate pink, and occasionally pristine white. As spring weaves its tapestry, these blooms give way to crimson berries, forming a feast that beckons the Kererū with its sweet nectar.

It also functions as the primary habitat for our largest moth – the Pūriri Moth or PePETUNA. The juvenile caterpillar tunnels into the trunk and feeds on the tree's sap. It transforms into a moth and takes flight to seek a partner. These moths only survive for 24 to 48 hours after emerging from the tree where they may have resided for up to seven years. When these moths emerge, it signifies the optimal time to catch tuna as it indicates that the tuna are nice and plump.

The wood from the Pūriri tree is considered one of the sturdiest woods. It is notably heavy, dense, and resistant to rot. While it may pose challenges during crafting, this timber

is highly valuable and long-lasting, often likened to Teak or Mahogany.

RONGOĀ
Traditionally, a wairākau was made from the leaves to alleviate back pain, joint discomfort, ulcers, sore throats and sprains. As with most rongoā, you will find this information on Google or in some books. There are many other rongoā that can do this action and Pūriri would have only been used in an emergency, if there were no other rākau around.

The tree holds great sacred significance, linked to mourning practices and burial rituals. This ancient connection within Te Ao Māori continues to be observed in certain regions today. From my studies of rongoā Māori in the northern regions, I have long understood the significance of this revered Rākau Rangatira in traditional rituals and customs. I approach these trees with utmost respect, acknowledging the enduring mana and tapu they embody. While Pūriri possesses medicinal qualities, I refrain from harvesting or utilising any rongoā sourced from a Pūriri unless I am familiar with the whakapapa of the land where the Pūriri is located. In fact, it is so important to know this for all native

plants within Aotearoa, especially well-harvested rākau such as Kawakawa.

Rongoā, the traditional Māori healing practice using native plants, is deeply intertwined with the spiritual connection to the land and the plants themselves. Without the respect and reverence for these plants and the ancient traditions surrounding them, the essence of rongoā is diminished.

In the case of widely harvested plants like kawakawa, which hold significant medicinal properties, understanding the importance of sustainable harvesting practices is essential. It is not just about the physical act of collecting the plants, but also about honouring their spiritual significance and the knowledge passed down through generations.

When harvesting practices lack reverence and sacred traditions, is it still a rongoā? When mixing kai or an exotic plant with rongoā, is it still a rongoā?

Finding a balance between meeting the demand for these healing resources and preserving the cultural integrity of the practice is crucial for the sustainability and authenticity of rongoā in Aotearoa.



Arts & Books

The Island of Sunken Treasure

REVIEWED BY ANN CHAPMAN

A lovely little children’s book came across my desk the other day. Written by Waikanae author Gordon Campbell, ‘The Island of Sunken Treasure’, is a cute little brightly coloured picture book which describes the sinking of the sailing ship General Grant. Wrecked near the rugged remote Auckland Islands, the survivors have to pit themselves against nature, and wild animals, fish and birds become their means of survival.

But it’s the gold on the ship which brings treasure hunters to these sub-Atlantic waters. Whether they can locate the ship and the gold is the mystery. But this little book, beautifully illustrated, is a true story of human ingenuity and endurance.

Available from Books & Co, 216 Main Highway, Ōtaki. \$25.00



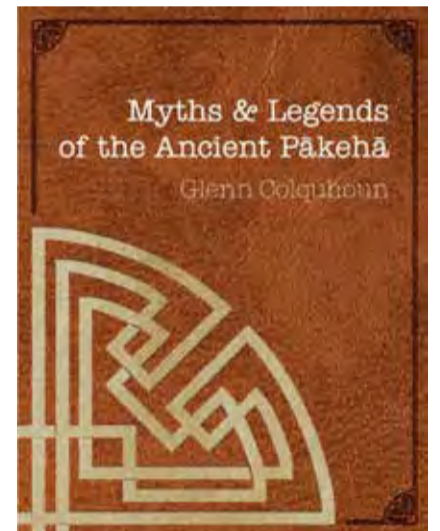
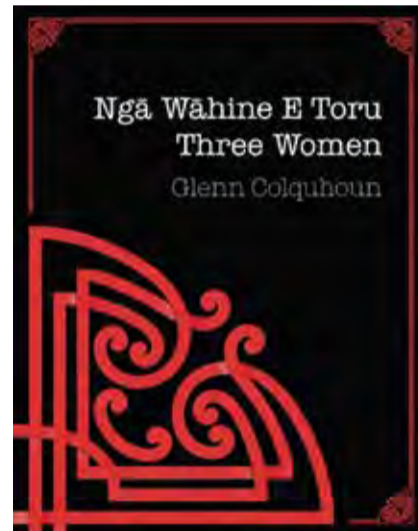
New poetry pair from Glenn Colquhoun

REVIEWED BY ROBIN PEACE

Sometimes a book is a thing that you pick up to read casually and fast. Other times it is a work of art – a thing in itself that is beautiful and needs to be held tenderly like a taonga, and opened, and opened again. Read and returned to. Glenn Colquhoun’s two most recent books *Ngā Wāhine E Toru* *Three Women* and *Myths & Legends of the Ancient Pākehā* belong in this category. Their restrained and dignified covers complement each other: one black and red with a Māori motif; one brown and gold with a Celtic design element. Inside both volumes the texts promise something rare: an accomplished and much admired poet telling intricate and engaging stories alongside new poetic works. Colquhoun says, of the bilingual *Ngā Wāhine*, “[i]t seems that of all the arts practised by Māori

and Pākehā our two poetries have remained the most stubbornly separated from each other ... I hope these small pieces go some way towards dwelling in the camp of the in-between.” And they do. The juxtaposition, page by page, of two poems in two languages demonstrate the distance in syntax and form while held together by the commonality of theme. *Myths & Legends* is a different project, complete with original musical notations (and a published soundtrack) and Nigel Brown illustrations. It seeks to sing of “what is broken and incomplete” in his own Pākehātanga, but also to “sing to Māori. They are waiting to meet our ghosts.” These are books to be bought and carried home with joy and curiosity.

Both available from Books & Co, \$45 each



Shades of Autumn



A fun fundraising concert for repairs to the glass portico at the church, with performers including:

Kāpiti Women’s Choir | Let’s Sing Ōtaki
Mass choir conducted by Ann-Marie Stapp
Trumpet & French Horn solos | Piano duets



Sunday 7 April, 2pm
Ōtaki Presbyterian Church
249 Mill Road, Ōtaki

Enquiries and tickets: Heather ph 021 2094 255
limited door sales

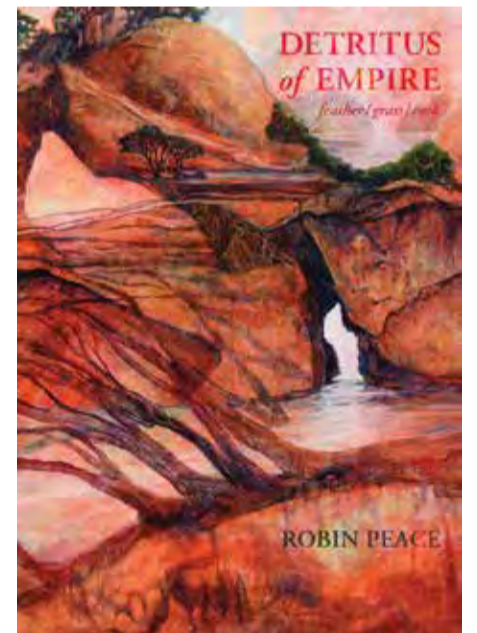
Robin Peace, Books & Co and The Cuba Press warmly invite you to the launch of her new poetry collection

DETRITUS OF EMPIRE *feather / grass / rock*

Sunday 7 April
4 PM
Books & Co
216 Main Highway, Ōtaki

To be launched by Ingrid Horrocks

RSVP: otaki@booksandco.co.nz



Current exhibition

Te Whakaaturanga o Te Tahamoana o Ōtaki | Ōtaki Beach Exhibition

March – April 2024

From Pā and Kainga to Baches and Seaside Villas
Stories about the People and Changing Character of Ōtaki Beach

Mai i te Pā me te Kainga ki te Whare Pākehā nei te Hanga
Ngā Korero mō Ngā Tangata me te Huri Haere o te Ahua o te Tahamoana o Ōtaki



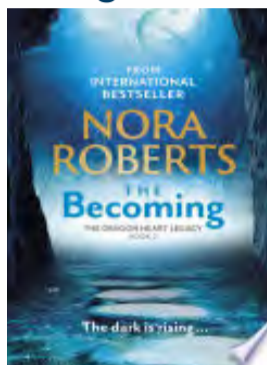


Ngā Arotakenga Mai i Te Whare Whakamatāu o Ōtaki

Ōtaki Library Hours:

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

The Becoming & The Choice - Nora Roberts Dragon Heart Legacy Series



A captivating trilogy, (Book 1 - *The Awakening* reviewed in March), brimming with strong female characters, captivated me throughout. The trilogy are a mesmerizing 'magick' filled narrative featuring dragons, faeries, and elves against the eternal clash of good and evil. In *The Becoming*, Breen grapples with embracing her true self, a pivotal step in her transformative journey. 'The Choice,' the trilogy's epic conclusion, where the characters must make life-altering decisions, navigating the fine line between good and evil, war and peace, life and death. REVIEWER: Debbie

CREEPOVER: The Show Must Go On - P.J. Night



It starts with a prologue of a tragedy that happened 30 years ago. Mildred Wormhouse, a play writer like William Shakespeare, wrote a play named, "The Last Sleepover." The story is about a girl, Bree/Gabriele Hart, who is a shy 8th grader. Bree and her best friend audition for the play, then get haunted by a so called 'ghost'. Bree is positive that whoever is haunting her means no harm. I would recommend this book series for people who like creepy mysteries. I started reading this series about a month ago and I instantly fell in love with the spooky vibe. REVIEWER: Azaria. Age 11.

Nothing Like a Dane - Keri Bloomfield



What caught my eye was the quote about 'hygge' on the back cover. I discovered the book is a biography about a woman from Upper Hutt who moved to Denmark to live with her Danish partner. I was hooked from the first page. This book provides a fresh perspective on moving to a new country and dealing with the smaller adjustments that are often overlooked. It's an easy read that is both humorous and enjoyable. REVIEWER: Jemma: Paraparaumu Library Staff.

ANZAC Day - We Will Remember Them



ANZAC day stands as a solemn memorial, honouring the courage and sacrifice of the soldiers of the New Zealand and Australian Army Corps. Observed on April 25th each year, this day pays tribute to those who bravely defended freedom. It is a time for reflection, remembrance and gratitude, fostering a collective commitment to peace. It serves as a poignant reminder of the ANZAC forces' dedication during times of conflict. "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. We will remember them."

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



Services

- Vet consultations
- Nurse consultations
- Vaccinations
- Microchipping
- De-sexing
- Radiology
- Soft tissue surgery
- Orthopaedic surgery
- Hospitalisation
- Dentals
- Retail
- Puppy Preschool

www.otakivets.nz

06 364 6941

otaki.contact@tvg.co.nz

269 Mill road, Otaki, 5512



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.

October 4

Last Friday the Chairman of the Wellington District Hospital Board, accompanied by several of the members of the Board, journeyed to Otaki to formally open the new wings of the Otaki Hospital. The Chairman (Mr. J. P. Luke), in his speech, said the first steps in connection with the Otaki Hospital were taken in 1896, and a site selected in February, 1898. A building costing £1500 was erected, and now they had just completed additions, including a septic tank, costing another £1500. The new wings are a great improvement on the old ones, and the hospital can accommodate twenty patients should occasion demand, as against eight formerly. Great interest was taken by the visitors in the shelter for consumptive patients, of which there are now five in the hospital grounds. The patients themselves are greatly pleased with their progress since being brought to Otaki, and the system appears to be working most satisfactorily. The Hospital Board intends shortly to erect a permanent building, in conjunction with a colony of shelters, at some little distance from the hospital. The Board recently waited on Sir Joseph Ward, asking for monetary assistance to carry out their intentions in this respect, but as yet have not received any definite assurance of help. The Board are not in a position to spend the money from their own funds, and rely on Government subsidies to enable them to carry out their proposals, therefore it may be some considerable time before the scheme is carried out.

October 10

Mr. Alexander Small, well-known in Oddfellowship and Masonic circles throughout the colony, died at his residence at Clifden, Otaki, yesterday, in his forty-ninth year. Mr. Small, who was a Justice of the Peace, was born at Otaki, and was the son of one of the district's earliest settlers. His death was unexpected, though he had been ailing for some time. He was the Grand Master of the American Order of Oddfellows, and was a brother-in-law of Mr. T. Jones, manager of the Evening Post jobbing department. Mr. Small's Funeral takes place to-morrow afternoon.

October 26

The deaths are announced at Otaki of Mr Thos. McClelland, and Mr James Woods, the latter being licensee of the Telegraph Hotel.

Mr McClelland, who was aged 84 years, was in business in Wellington in the early days as a bootmaker. He removed to Otaki in 1880, where he continued in the same line of business until a few years ago when old age compelled him to leave the trade. Deceased was married twice. His first wife came out to the colony with him, and died some 28 years ago. As the outcome of this marriage, three children were born, Mrs Oak, of Levin, Mr T. McClelland, of Wellington, and the late Mr W. H. McClelland. His second wife, who survives him, is a sister to Mr W. Webber, and there are ten children in the second family—Mr J. McClelland, of Hawke's Bay, and two unmarried sons, Mrs A. E. Anderson, of Otaki, Mrs McWilliam, of Palmerston North, Mrs Beale, of Auckland, and four unmarried daughters.

Mr Woods was found dead in bed on Monday morning. Deceased was an hotelkeeper for many years in various ago. His death will be heard of with much regret by friends all over the colony. The late Mr Woods leaves a wife, and one daughter and three sons, all unmarried.

November 5

Lemons are being grown successfully at Otaki. A few days ago a settler picked no less than fifty dozen lemons from one tree, and the crop was so large that when he

had finished one could scarcely notice where they had been gathered, so full was the tree with fruit. Citrons also grow well at Otaki and bear profusely.

December 12

The Most Reverend Octavius Hadfield, late Primate of New Zealand and Bishop of Wellington, died at Marton yesterday morning. The deceased was born at Bonchurch, in the Isle of Wight, England, in 1815. He was educated at the Charterhouse School and at Pembroke College, Oxford, but was obliged to leave the University on account of ill-health. In 1838 he left England for Sydney, where, shortly after his arrival, he was ordained deacon. After a short residence in Australia he crossed to New Zealand, arriving at the Bay of Islands on the 21st December, 1838, or more than a year before the establishment of British Government in this colony. Upon the application of Te Rauparaha, the famous chief, for a missionary to be sent to Otaki, Mr Hadfield volunteered for the service, and having been admitted to priest's orders by the late Bishop Selwyn, he left the North for his new sphere of labour, where he spent many years. It was largely due to his influence and tact that at least one serious war between the whites and the natives was averted, for after the Wairau massacre in 1843 Te Rauparaha roused his tribe to arms, and had it not been for the intervention of Mr Hadfield the natives would have descended on the new settlement at Wellington. Mr Hadfield was appointed by Bishop Selwyn to be Archdeacon in 1849, but remained, at Otaki till 1865. When the Hauhau fanaticism broke out, and the Rev. Mr Volkner was murdered, Archdeacon Hadfield stood to his post at the imminent risk of his life, declaring that he was ready to die where he so long laboured. Subsequently Archdeacon Hadfield was removed to Wellington, where for some years he acted as Bishop's Commissary, and in 1870, upon the resignation of Bishop Abraham, he was elected to be Bishop of the diocese. In 1889, upon the late Bishop Harper's retirement, he was appointed to the Primacy, but advancing age and the effects of his fatiguing work in the early days necessitated his release

from the onerous duties of his office, and when he retired in October, 1893, he had been a bishop for no less than 23 years. Since his resignation he has lived in complete retirement at Marton, the enfeeblement which accompanied his late years entirely preventing him from any active part in affairs. He has finally passed away at the advanced age of 89, after more than half a century of labour in the cause of his Master, to receive at last his reward- in the words "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

December 21

The heaviest flood known for years is running in the Otaki river. There is a breach in the railway between the north bank of the river and the Otaki station about thirty chains in length. The down express was unable to pass this afternoon and passengers had to remain at Otaki. The up train from Wellington was unable to pass. It is hoped traffic will be restored to-morrow.

December 29

In the year 1891 the Hon. Huia Onslow, son of the Earl of Onslow, then Governor of New Zealand, was inducted as chieftain of the Ngatihua tribe at Otaki. The child was then about a year old. Last week Lady Onslow returned on a visit to the colony, bringing Huia with her, and today the lad was welcomed by a great gathering of Ngatihuas and Ngatiraukawas at Otaki. There were a great many visitors present, among them being Mr Seddon and Sir Joseph Ward, The Countess of Onslow and her son were met on arrival by a number of prominent natives, and driven to the meeting-house. Along the road bands of Maoris sang songs of welcome. At the meeting-house an address of welcome was presented to Huia, expressive of the Maoris' pleasure at his return. He and his sister, Lady Dorothy, were also presented with valuable mats. The tribal forum in front of the meeting-house had been gravelled and turfed and planted with nikau palms and tree ferns. From a tall flagstaff floated the tribal ensign, the gift of Lord Onslow to the Ngatihua. After the preliminary welcome, the guests were entertained by the Maoris, whose hospitality was of a most lavish character.

Council battery recycling trial extended to Ōtaki Library

The success of a recycling trial for household batteries at Paraparaumu Library has prompted Kāpiti Coast District Council to extend the trial to Ōtaki.

Waste Projects Manager Robbie Stillwell said domestic batteries can now be dropped in a custom-built cabinet at Ōtaki Library, from where Council will send them for recycling. "Since the trial began in Paraparaumu in July 2023, we've been able to divert about 320 kg of dead household batteries from landfill, so we've decided to extend this facility to Ōtaki library, too.

"About 99 per cent of the components in domestic batteries may be able to be reused in new batteries and steel building reinforcing rods," Mr Stillwell said.

"This extends the use of valuable resources and allows us to divert hazardous waste from landfill where it can leach into the soil and waterways. It also reduces the risk of old batteries starting fires in rubbish or recycling bins and collection trucks.

Mr Stillwell said normal household batteries, such as lithium-ion or Li-ion (including rechargeable ones), nickel cadmium and alkaline AA/AAA, C, D, and N batteries, and silver zinc hearing-aid batteries – all in good condition – can be dropped off.

"People can still drop off their old batteries for free at our Otaihanga or Ōtaki transfer stations, but those facilities are only for safe disposal. Our library facilities will recycle

them for other uses.

"We also recognise that the transfer station may not be convenient for people with just a couple of batteries to dispose of, so the Ōtaki and Paraparaumu library facilities will be more convenient for [those] people."

The library has several layers of safety measures in place, including using a non-metal bucket that lowers the combustion risk. For additional safety, people dropping off lithium-ion batteries are asked to tape the ends with tape provided at the recycling station.

Leaking or damaged batteries, or batteries for power tools, electronic devices, or vehicles, cannot be dropped off at the library and will still need to go to the transfer stations for safe disposal.

"Our friends at MenzShed have stepped up again to help re-purpose an old wooden cabinet rescued from the tip shop for battery recycling, so we're very appreciative of their input.

"Batteries dropped off for recycling go to battery recycling company Upcycle, which collects batteries from all over New Zealand for recycling," Mr Stillwell said.

[source: KCDC]

right: Ōtaki librarian Debbie Brown demonstrates the kinds of batteries you can now recycle at the library



Media Muse

By Manakau's Tom Frewen

Music to my ears. That's what I want in the mornings. I don't want arguments; I don't want politics. I want music and I get it from the radio, not from the phone, the TV or the internet.

Music at the press of one button. Last time I counted, I had seven "devices" to get TV off the TV. Three remotes – my magic sticks, I call them – an iPad, a phone, another magic stick for SKY, another for the DVD player and another, if I could find it, for the video player.

Just the one button gets me music. This morning it got me – thank you Google – the Graduate Choir with Claire Caldwell on piano, Haddon Smith on double bass and Patrick Tanielu on drums singing a modern arrangement of "I Can't Give You Anything But Love, Baby" by Jimmy McHugh and Dorothy Fields.

Before I know it I'm dancing round the kitchen, punching the air like a Swiftie, singing to Sophie, our black and white cat. I can't give you anything but love, baby; she looks back at me as if to say, "what about fresh cat crunchies and milk?"

The button that gets me music is the third button that I press in the mornings. The first is on the lavatory cistern, the tank that holds the water for flushing, also known as the water closet or WC. The second button is on the electric jug to heat water for making coffee. The third button, on another remote, turns on the radio which is tuned to Concert, a radio station that was nearly killed off by a guy who believes radio is a dying medium.

A few months after his appointment in September 2013 as New Zealand's public radio's third chief executive, Paul Thompson published his notes for the speech he delivered to the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association Conference in Glasgow.

His speech notes reveal, with less than eight months' experience in broadcasting following a 15-year career in newspaper journalism and management, he realised he'd jumped onto a sinking ship.

"The evidence is clear that traditional media are in decline," he'd decided.

"Radio, television and newspapers are merging into digital devices that are always switched on. The future of content delivery is multi-media, multi-platform, personalised, mobile and social."

As Marshall McLuhan might have said: The medium is dead, long live the message. But not, Thompson believed, on radio. To stay relevant and continue serving the public, Mr Thompson said Radio New Zealand had to become a multi-media organisation."

He also wanted to highlight three troubling facts:

"We are weak (almost irrelevant) on the web.

"As a radio broadcaster, we lack visual journalism and digital story-telling skills.

"Our preferred method of content delivery – radio – is in long-term decline."

Ten years later, Thompson's attempt to turn New Zealand's taxpayer-funded public radio into a multi-media organisation turns out to have been a very expensive flop.

The main difference between the two national radio networks in 2013 and today's "multi-media organisation" is the addition of a website, which languishes a distant third to the websites of the newspaper chains of Stuff (*The Post*) and NZME (*NZ Herald*). Instead of getting content not otherwise available on "the market, the taxpayer is funding a service that not only duplicates existing services but doesn't perform as well as its commercial rivals. According to a table compiled by SimilarWeb, an Israeli web-analytics company, the websites of *NZ Herald* and *Stuff* get around 29 million and 28 million visits per month compared with *RNZ's* 9.1 million.

A similar comparison between the audiences for *RNZ's* flagship news and current affairs radio programme, Morning Report, and NZME's breakfast show are not possible because the public broadcaster keeps its ratings secret.

The size of radio audiences is measured three times a year by the German ratings company GfK under contract to the Radio Broadcasters Association (RBA), which was formed in 1971 to represent the interests of commercial radio stations that use the data for setting advertising rates and for brand promotion. A separate survey measures the audiences for *RNZ's* two networks, National and Concert, with the data being published a week later by the RBA – up until 2022 when the responsibility for publication of the ratings data passed to *RNZ*. Since then, the basic information needed to hold the public broadcaster to

account – the size of its audiences – has dried up completely.

The overall results from the second survey in 2023, published on the *RNZ* website, showed that in a typical week, 648,700 New Zealanders aged 10+ listened to *RNZ* National and *RNZ* Concert, down from 678,200 from the previous survey. The result of 2023's third survey have not been published, probably indicating a further decline.

Requests made under the Official Information Act for *RNZ's* rating data going back to 2022 have yielded little. The Chief Ombudsman has agreed to investigate this ludicrous situation.

While the audiences for *RNZ's* National radio news and current affairs programmes may (or may not) be continuing to decline, public radio's main commercial radio rival remains in rude health. A full-page advertisement in the country's only weekly current affairs magazine, the Australian-owned *Listener*, so wetly woke that it should have a mangrove swamp named after it, says it all. It features a portrait of *NewstalkZB's* breakfast show host, Mike Hosking, a middle-aged urban urchin, hair frosted grey and a very expensive watch on his wrist à la John Key. "Listen," it says, to "The Mike Hosking Breakfast" show 6am – 9am weekdays. On the back cover, *RNZ's* full-page ad has two two words in capitals JOURNALISTS for its National network on AM and FM and VIOLINISTS for its Concert classical-music station on FM.

Thompson, a journalist, was given the job of running the country's only public broadcaster by a National Party government-appointed board chaired by another journalist, Richard Griffin, who had been the radio's political editor. National Party governments have always been hostile to

public broadcasting, seeing it as taking money away from their mates in the private sector. Thompson, who had embraced the internet to cut the distribution and labour costs of newspapers, was chosen to use digital technology to turn the spoken word into print on screens and open the way for earning revenue from advertising.

Thompson was not alone in believing that "the future of content delivery" would be through "digital devices that are always switched on." His mistake was the common one of believing that one form of technology will replace another. The long history of technological development shows it to be cumulative. The availability of news in print on the screens of phones and computers has not replaced the demand for news and weather forecasts and traffic updates on radio in the mornings and for moving pictures of plane crashes and other disasters in the evenings.

Another big mistake was in failing to foresee the multitude of uses that mobile phones would provide: radio becoming just another app.

Then, of course, there was Thompson's major blunder in planning to take the Concert network off its radio broadcast frequency and put it on the internet, automated and distributed for virtually no cost.

When Thompson took over as *RNZ's* chief executive in 2013 he was on an annual salary of \$400,000. Last year he earned \$545,169 including a performance bonus of \$65,438 and is on a rare thing in the public service, an open-ended contract with no expiry date.

This is just one of problems awaiting the attention of National's new Minister of Communications and Media, Melissa Lee.



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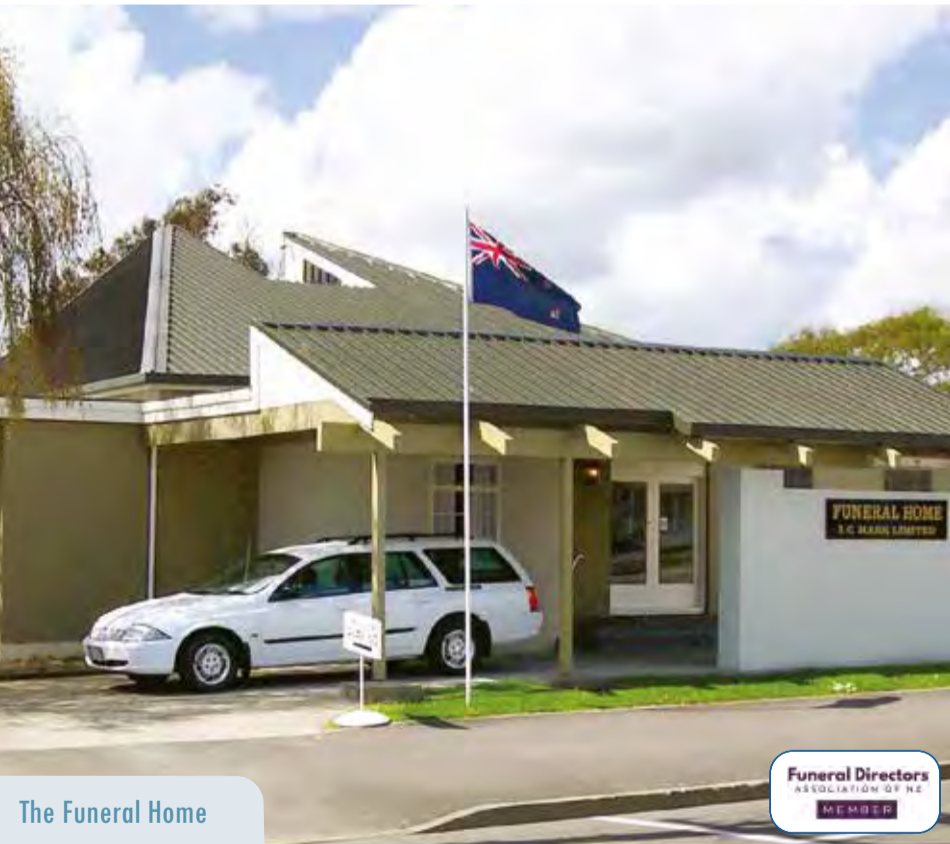
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ŌSLSC: end-of-season carnival

BY CARRIE YAXLEY



And just like that the Ōtaki Surf Lifesaving Club season has come to an end. The flags have been stored away for the last time and the uniforms washed and away until next summer.

We celebrated the end of the season in style with a fun in-house carnival for Junior surf (7–13 year olds) and Lifeguards.

If you were down on the beach on Sunday 3 March you would have seen some amazing friendly rivalry from kids and adults alike.

The afternoon started with Junior surf: dress-the-lifeguard relay; assault course; and beach-tube rescue relay. These were followed by the more traditional water activities seen at SLSNZ carnivals: run-swim-run and run-board-run races.

The Rookies (12 and 13 year olds) did a swim-and-board race. Conditions on the water were testing, but the enthusiasm was inspiring.

While the kids got warm it was time for the Lifeguards to show their skills. Beach flags (common in SLSNZ competitions) are always very competitive and great to watch.

This year's final saw Fraser Martin pip Ruby Hawkins to take the honors. Running relay with fins-on-feeet is always entertaining to watch, but the best event was the board race around a moving buoy. The struggle is real when only child-sized boards are allowed and the target is moving. It was awesome to see our Lifeguards shine through in situations like this: fun at the time, but these skills are invaluable in a real rescue situation.

The finale to this day, and the season was a club-wide BBQ. The club rooms were heaving and the shared kai delicious.

Thanks to everyone who made this day possible and fun for all.

Patrols may have finished, but the training and fun continues over winter with the focus turning to IRB training and that of our new lifeguard recruits.

The latest on the agenda was the Rookie and Lifeguard trip to Fitzroy, Taranaki, at the end of March.

Roll on summer 2024–25!



Record crowd at netball tournament

BY FRANK NEILL

A record crowd descended on Ngā Purapura to take in the action at this year's pre-season Netball tournament.

Hosted by Te Wānanga o Raukawa (TWOR), the tournament was run over three days – from Friday 15 March to Sunday 17 March.

There is seating for 600 spectators at Ngā Purapura, and the weekend saw full houses for each of the five games played on the Friday and Saturday, the first time this has happened.

There was another first at the tournament, too, with the inclusion of a team from Australia – the Queensland Firebirds.

The Firebirds joined three New Zealand teams for the event – the Robinhood Stars, The Trident Home Tactix and Wellington team Te Wānanga o Raukawa Pulse.

The tournament went “exceptionally well,” TWOR's Tumuaki (Chief Executive Officer) Dr Mereana Selby says.

TWOR was also “very happy to provide this sport event at Ōtaki.

“We are very happy to share our language and culture and we are very pleased with people's engagement with that.

“It has really embraced the Te Wānanga o Raukawa kaupapa and culture.

“It was good to have an Australian team here too.”

One of the Firebirds, Goal Shoot Donnell Wallam, who also plays for the Australian national team, the Diamonds, is of Aboriginal descent.

The Firebirds asked TWOR to share Te Reo Māori and Māori culture, which they embraced very warmly.

That included making pūrerehua and practising the song ‘Tūtira Mai Ngā Iwi’. The two teams that contested the final match of the tournament, the Firebirds and the Stars, joined in singing ‘Tūtira Mai’ to

conclude the three-day event.

The results of the six games played were:

Tactix 63 vs Firebirds 45

Pulse 68 vs Stars 54

Tactix 43 vs Pulse 33

Stars 42 vs Tactix 37

Pulse 74 vs Firebirds 54

Stars 54 vs Firebirds 42

right: Firebirds Goal Shoot Donnell Wallam shoots another goal for her team

bottom right: Goal Shoot Maia Wilson, who is also a Silver Fern, shoots a goal for the Stars

below: the Firebirds and the Stars singing at the end of the TWOR pre-season Netball tournament



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