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May 2024



Fantastic work of the Fire Brigade

BY FRANK NEILL



Some of the brigade members with the donated items that came in the wake of the March fires.

The amazing work that the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade does was graphically highlighted during a spate of five fires, three of them major blazes, during March.

They are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and they fight fires for no pay.

They save lives, they save property and they help people in distress.

The 22 firefighters, assisted by their operational support, not only fight fires, but also serve in a variety of other ways.

That includes helping during medical emergencies, following motor-vehicle accidents, and are involved following issues with hazardous materials, to name just three.

The brigade does “an absolutely great job,” Ōtaki Community Board Chair Cam Butler, says.

“I would like to commend them for the fantastic work that they do for the community.”

And it’s a much wider community than just Ōtaki that they serve, as they are called to help in the wider region as well, including Levin and Paraparaumu.

“I don’t think we can thank them enough for their service,” Mr Butler says.

Many others in the community also paid tribute to the brigade on social media in the wake of the fires.

“I commend our firefighters who have had multiple huge fires these last two weeks,” one post said.

“They are absolutely amazing and we don’t give them enough credit as a community for what they do!”

“I am forever grateful for the fire fighters,” another post said, while a third one said: “They do an amazing job and most don’t get paid.”

The brigade “has been humbled by the outpouring of support following a busy month in March,” Ōtaki’s Chief Fire Officer Ian King says.

“The brigade would especially like to thank Nikki MacLean and Simone Brooker, who approached businesses and co-ordinated the donations of supplies and home baking.

“The brigade would also like to sincerely thank the Ōtaki Womens Sunday Market, who provided breakfast for the crews at their market [on Sunday 31 March].

“Always remember, volunteer firefighters are ‘from your community, for your community’,” Mr King says.

One fact that highlights just how great the service volunteer firefighters provide the community is that after spending around six hours at one of the March blazes, the brigade was then called out at around 3:30am the next morning.

“I only got an hour’s sleep,” fire-fighter Simon Black told the *Ōtaki Mail*.

“This was the most intense period of fires over a couple of weeks for a long time involving a collection of bigger fires,” Mr King says.

The first of the fires happened at Waikawa Beach on 15 March and the Ōtaki brigade was first on the scene of a blaze that burnt through around 16ha of scrub.

The Ōtaki brigade was again first on the scene of the next fire on Friday 22 March.

A shed at the old chicken farm on Swamp Road, Te Horo, caught alight.

The shed was totally destroyed, along with machinery, around 15 cars and tyres in the blaze, which was also attended by the Te Horo Rural Fire Brigade as well as appliances from Waikanae, Paraparaumu, Levin and Wellington.

As well as battling the blaze for some six hours, the Ōtaki brigade also returned to the scene the next morning to deal with hot spots.

The next day, at around 5pm, the brigade was called to a fire in scrub near the old Ōtaki Health Camp site.

When the brigade arrived two teenagers were trapped by the flames. Their planned escape route had proved impossible for them to use because of high blackberry bushes.

The brigade walked the two out.

Police apprehended the two youths at the scene, and have referred them to Youth Services.

The flames burned through around 4ha of scrub bordering Rangioru and Health Camp Roads and Mountain View Terrace.

As well as spending around five hours fighting the fire, the brigade ended up having to follow-up over the next week to deal with hot spots.

The next morning, following a call at 3:30am, both the Ōtaki brigade’s fire trucks attended a blaze at Millvale House, a resthome in Levin.

The fire was in the ceiling of one of the wings at Millvale House and although the wing was fitted with sprinklers, they were below the fire and were therefore not effective.

Around 27 people had to be evacuated from the burning building, mainly elderly people, some of whom had dementia.

At around 6:15am on Good Friday, 29 March, the brigade was called to a major blaze in Titoki Street.

A factory being used by Matta Products was completely gutted in the fire and the brigade was on the scene for about eight hours.

Once again, the brigade had to return to the scene, checking it four more times during the next two days.



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ŌTAKI MAIL MADNESS

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The law on retirement villages is changing

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BY FLEUR HOBSON

The decision to move into a retirement village is a big one. It involves, among other things such as lifestyle choices, a significant financial commitment.

It also involves the need to understand the rules that govern retirement villages, and also understand proposed changes to the rules.

The rules are contained in the Retirement Villages Act 2003 and its associated regulations and codes.

This Act is under review.

Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga Ministry of Housing and Urban Development initiated this review and called for submissions, which closed in mid-November 2023.

The review's aim was to balance two things: safeguarding the interests of residents; and encouraging innovation within the sector.

A discussion paper was published which can be found under the heading, 'Review of the Retirement Villages Act 2003', on the website <https://consult.hud.govt.nz>.

The key proposals Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga proposed in the discussion paper are:

- replacing the disclosure statement with new plain language documents;
- introducing a partially standardised occupation right agreement;
- requiring operators to meet the direct costs of maintaining and repairing operator-owned chattels and fixtures;
- replacing the current dispute resolution scheme with a new scheme that aligns with the best practice principles for dispute resolution;
- requiring disclosure documents to include more comprehensive

information on transferring within a village to aged-residential care;

- stopping fees after a unit is vacated; and
- introducing a mandatory timeframe for repaying a resident's capital when they move out, and/or requiring an operator to pay interest if the repayment is not made after a certain time.

If you are considering moving into a retirement village, or if a member of your family or somebody you know is, it is important to look at both what the current Retirement Villages Act and its associated regulations and codes provide, as well as looking at the proposed changes to the Act.

Having a look at both may, for example, mean that you decide to wait for the Act to be changed before making the move to a retirement village.

Because this is complex, it is highly recommended that you see a lawyer and obtain quality advice to help you make the right decisions.

The Retirement Villages Act review by Te Tūāpapa Kura

Kāinga came in the wake of an investigation by the Retirement Commission into residents' experiences in moving out of, or within, a retirement village.

The commission's investigation identified that:

- research found that the experience can be quite varied, with some residents feeling informed and supported, while others feeling rushed and taken advantage of;
- a lack of understanding of how the buying and selling of retirement village accommodation differs from the wider residential real estate market can lead to disappointment and dissatisfaction among both residents and whānau; and
- many residents and whānau expect a duty of care from a retirement village to be also applied throughout the exit process, and their interpretation and expectation of this duty of care greatly affected their exit experience.

These are also points where you can receive helpful advice from a lawyer.

For expert advice, if you are wanting to buy a home, or whatever your issue, contact Fleur, Susie or Freya at Hobson Mills Law, ph 364 7190, 282 Mill Road (opp Farmlands).

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PHONE 06 364 7190

Prime Minister meets Ōtaki youth

BY PENNY GAYLOR

Prime Minister Chris Luxon and local MP Tim Costley recently met the Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki youth and mentors in Ōtaki.

Chair of Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki Charitable Trust Monica Fraser says the trust is focused on the design and retention of services that support the resilience and well being of the Ōtaki community.

“Rather than lament the constant relocation of services away from Ōtaki and back to larger centres and cities (which has been the town’s constant experience), our vision and purpose means we are working collectively to increase our community capacity to support our own model of Hauora, which focuses on a strengths-based approach and is determined and provided by Ōtaki for Ōtaki.”

Tim Costley says it was a pleasure to host our Prime Minister in Ōtaki.

“I brought the PM to Ōtaki because I’m so proud of our region and wanted to show-off the amazing work people in our community, like Te Puna Oranga, do,” says Tim.

“It’s really important to me that when the PM and Government make decisions, they do that understanding the experiences of all of us here in smaller towns like Ōtaki. That’s why I keep bringing lots of MPs to visit every month.

“We got an amazing response at Te Puna Oranga. The PM and I loved playing foosball and basketball with the rangatahi, listening to their stories, and sharing our experiences with them.

“I’m really looking forward to bringing the PM and other Government Ministers back to visit soon.”



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BY VIVIENNE BAILEY

Te Horo Hall Annual General Meeting
 The Te Horo Hall Society Incorporated AGM will be held Tuesday 4 June 2024 at 7.00pm at Te Horo Community Hall, School Road, Te Horo.

A progress report on fundraising for seismic strengthening of the hall will be included. Everyone welcome.

The Kilns Project, Elizabeth Vullings
 Recently exhibited at Toi MAHARA, Ringa Toi | Artists' Gallery is *The Kilns Project*. It is the culmination of work by Kāpiti Coast artist, Elizabeth Vullings.

The Kilns Project explores the relocation of Te Horo's two beehive pottery kilns, built by renowned potter, Mirek Smíšek in the early 1970s. Elizabeth has documented the relocation process and produced ceramics, paintings and installations based on imprints, fragmentation and preservation. Initially driven by her love of small architectural structures and the stories they say, the project developed into something more substantial.

"It has taken passion, perseverance and a huge amount of skill and effort from many different people to save these kilns. Mirek's kilns were his passion – my exhibition seeks to honour this."

The Kilns Project was exhibited at Toi MAHARA, Mahara Place, Waikanae, 27 January – 30 April.

Successful conclusion to inaugural residency The Kilns at Te Horo

To mark the end of her time as resident artist at The Kilns at Te Horo, Adrienne Riseley will exhibit her works in *Elemental* at Toi MAHARA, Waikanae. It reflects her six-month tenure at The Kilns, living in the heritage Te Horo Railway Station and connecting with artists and the community.

"The theme of the exhibition will be connecting community and place," says Adrienne. "Just as I've been reconnecting, deepening my ties, with my homeland here in New Zealand after 30 years' living in Sweden."

Exploring how materials bear meaning, her

work will feature clay from the paddock adjoining the on-site Doreen Blumhardt Potter's Studio, and papers made from flax and other materials found on site.

A collaboration with contemporary whaikairo/carver, Wirihana Kiriona, Ōtaki Beach, features as part of *Elemental*, presenting new meaning and significance to the fence palings that once surrounded Smíšek's home.

The exhibition will be on display in Ringa Toi | Artists' Gallery, Toi MAHARA, opening Friday 3 May. It will run through May and June 2024.

Volunteers needed at The Kilns at Te Horo

The Mirek Smíšek Arts Trust is looking for volunteers to greet visitors during opening hours, Thursday till Sunday (morning shift 10.00am to 1.00pm; afternoon 1.00pm to 4.00pm) and for various roles such as events and marketing. For further information contact thekilnsattehoro@gmail.com

Drinks and Nibbles

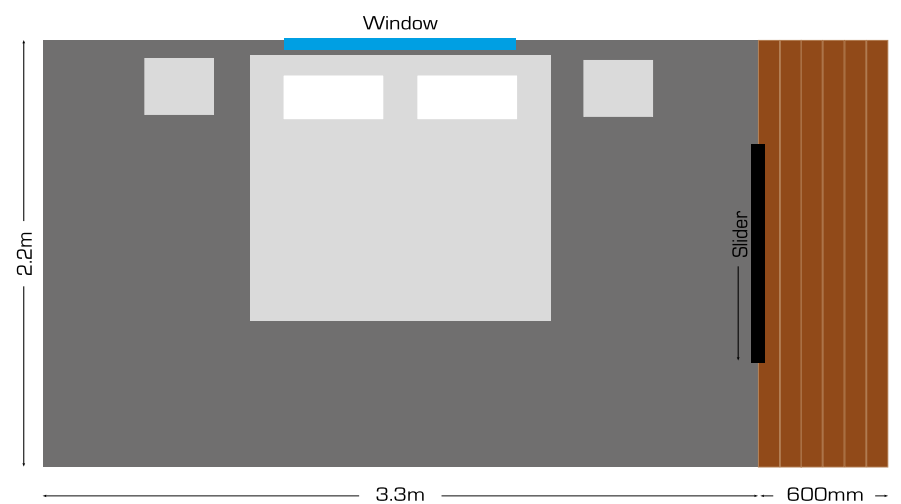
Te Horo's community get together, Friday 3 May 5.30 at Te Horo Hall. BYO drink and a plate of finger food to share. All welcome.

below: inaugural resident artist at The Kilns at Te Horo
 Adrienne Riseley at work with material for her exhibition *Elemental*.
 image: The Mirek Smíšek Arts Trust





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Elemental, Adrienne Riseley

3 May – 30 June, 2024

Single Top | Artists' Gallery

During her residency at The Kilns at Te Horo Adrienne Riseley explored how materials bear meaning. She returned to Aotearoa to engage with people and the land, gather clay stories, and deepen her ties to this place.

In collaboration with Wirihana Kiriona.

Supported by the Swedish Arts Grants Committee and The Kilns Trust.



Zero Waste Ōtaki

BY DAVE MACINTYRE



After the depressing news that thieves had stolen most of Zero Waste Ōtaki's tools and damaged the group's steel container, the spirits of the ZWŌ volunteers were lifted by a wonderful letter from the Salvation Army Kāpiti Corps, which underlines the benefits the community is getting from our recycled wood.

The Corps' Hannah Medlan, along with her sister and small nephew, visited the ZWŌ site alongside the Ōtaki landfill several weeks previously and picked up some lovely pieces of wood, including some native timber, for a work project the Corps was undertaking for Easter.

"We put together some Easter-at-home packs for 20 of our Messy Church families. Messy Church is a church for everyone who may not feel comfortable attending a 'normal' church service and who don't yet belong to a church," says Hannah.

"It's a relaxed style of church suitable for all ages and typically includes a meal, hands-on activities such as arts and crafts, and a time of story and celebration. Our monthly sessions started back in November 2021 and we now have a congregation of around 100 people.

"We put together 20 packs, which included some wooden pieces, dowels, peg dolls, a sticker and sandpaper for families to work with to create an Easter empty tomb decoration [see photograph]."

Hannah got a personal bonus with the left-over timber – "I used it to make some serving boards for a little café my family set up for a party we hosted to celebrate my mother's recent retirement.

"Thanks so much again for your help! I can't wait to visit again soon."

The Salvation Army's Easter Packs are another example of the creativity of ZWŌ's

customers. 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 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 - 11 am; on the last Sunday of the month from 9.00 – 12.00; 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



Photo: 2023 Community Award Winner Kāpiti Boating Club

Do you know a **Good Sort** or **Community Group** making Kāpiti a great place to live, work, and play?

Nominations are open for the Kāpiti Good Sorts and Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards.

These awards are a great way to say thanks to the people who dedicate their time, knowledge, and skills for the greater good of our community.

We all know a Good Sort. And we all know of a Community Group doing good deeds.

Visit kapiticoast.govt.nz/GoodSorts and **nominate your favourites** by 31 May 2024.



Regional Community Awards 2024





NZ Emergency Medical Team internationally recognised for quality of care

The New Zealand Medical Assistance Team (NZMAT) – which can be deployed overseas to support local health services in a major emergency – is being internationally commended for being able to provide health care which goes well beyond the minimum requirements.

NZMAT successfully renewed its accreditation last November as a World Health Organization (WHO) certified unit, and the WHO has now provided feedback on its performance. The WHO said NZMAT has demonstrated its capability to deliver quality assured health services, some of which were beyond the required standards for team of that category.

‘Being accredited by the World Health Organisation is important for our credibility. Think of it like a Warrant of Fitness for your car. This is a stamp of approval to confirm that other countries can continue to rely on New Zealand to provide a high standard of support to them during an emergency,’ said Director of Emergency Management, Jason Jones.

In the immediate aftermath of a major emergency, local health services are

often overwhelmed with work. The accreditation system was developed to ensure countries have a list of internationally recognised medical teams to call on for support. Currently, there are 40 teams on that list – including New Zealand.

‘Even though we received confirma-

“ accreditation by the World Health Organisation important for credibility ”

tion in November that we had met the minimum standards, it’s great to now also be recognised for the incredible work the team does to go above and beyond,’ said Jason Jones.

NZMAT has a fixed camp facility which can treat up to 100 patients at a time, and smaller mobile teams which can access remote areas and treat 50 patients at a time. Both capabilities first received accreditation in 2017, and at the

time, New Zealand was only the second country in the world to have a WHO accredited Emergency Medical Team

‘Renewing our accreditation was about more than a simple pass or fail test for us. We wanted to demonstrate that we could not only meet the minimum standards, but we had also continuously improved our processes since we were first accredited in 2017,’ said Jason Jones.

Established in 2009, NZMAT is a New Zealand Government-led, civilian-based deployable emergency medical team comprising of doctors, nurses,

logisticians, and allied health staff such as pharmacists, physiotherapists, public health staff and paramedics.

NZMAT has previously responded to offshore events, such as the Samoa measles outbreak in 2019, and to the Cook Islands and Fiji during the Covid-19 outbreak, as well as natural disasters in the Pacific.

‘You learn something new every time you’re deployed, and combining that with the feedback from the WHO, we’re now in a good place to be able to pass learnings on to other countries,’ said Jason Jones. *Source: MoH*

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.

Supporting businesses like the P2 Health Collective strengthens the community and ensures continued access to essential services.

Manatū Hauora proactively releases second health reforms progress documents

Manatū Hauora | Ministry of Health has today released the Health System Reform Progress Report for Q2 2023/24.

This report provides an update on the health system reform, based on evidence available against expected achievements on the Health System Reform Roadmap for Q2 FY 2023/24, key progress towards future achievements, and barriers to success.

This report acknowledges areas of progress such as the establishment of

clinical networks, improvements in standardising data collection, and recruitment of regional leadership whilst noting several critical areas that are not evidenced as progressing as intended.

Ten achievements were due for completion during Q2 FY 2023/24. Four of these were completed (achieved), substantial progress was made during the quarter for another three achievements, and the remaining three require significant work.

Source: MoH



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The Rongoā Space

BY JOANNE HAKARAIA-OLSON

Rongoā of the Month NGAIO

Rona went to fetch water from the spring. It was dark when she went however there was bright moonlight from the fullness of the moon. It was Rākau-nui and Rona could see quite clearly as she walked along the path. She filled her hue and made her way back to her whare. As she walked along the path the light began to fade. The moon had gone behind a heavy cloud. She walked slowly and carefully pleading with the moon to come out from behind the clouds. Rona's annoyance with the moon was brewing when suddenly she tripped on a rock and fell to the ground spilling the hue of wai. Rona cursed the moon for making her fall. "Look what you've done!" she screamed. The moon was annoyed with Rona for cursing him so he drew her up to him. Rona looked around for something to hold onto and saw a Ngaio tree. She quickly reached out to a branch and held on but the

moon was so strong that it drew both her and the Ngaio tree up toward him. The Ngaio was pulled from the earth, roots and all and remained with Rona on the moon.

Ngaio (*Myoporum laetum*) is a fast growing tree up to 10 metres. Its delicate flowers are white spotted with purple and occur from mid-spring to mid-summer. The berries are purple and ripen through summer and autumn. The leaves are waxy and have pale, dot-like oil glands which are visible when held up to the light. The timber is white.

Ngaio is found in coastal and lowland forest throughout Aotearoa but uncommon in the deep south. I remember when I first learned about Ngaio I was keen to connect with it. However, I was living in Tamaki at the time and it was quite uncommon. I searched for it in Te Tai Tokerau but never came across it. It took a further 3 years to finally come face to face with it. I came home to Ōtaki and it was everywhere!

The spots on the leaves are caused by pellucid glands which contain ngaione. Ngaione has antibacterial properties but is very toxic to stock. Traditionally, the young shoots were rubbed onto the skin to repel mosquitos and sandflies.

Leaves were bruised and heated to release the oil for infected wounds and applied. The leaves were very effective in drawing out the paru.

Please note, it is not recommended to try this as the toxin, ngaione, can still seep into the system through the skin and may cause harm.

The pakiwaitara tells us that there is a strong connection between Ngaio and the moon. When the leaves are held up in the sunlight, the spots on the leaves look like a galaxy of stars and moons. The waxy leaves remind us of the waxing of the moon. When the moon is full, Rona can be seen holding her hue and branches of the Ngaio.



Working for a better, more peaceful world

BY FRANK NEILL



“Let us all think about the continuing need to stand up to those who believe ‘might is right’ and who have no regard for human rights or international law,” guest speaker Major Rupert Randall said in his speech at the Ōtaki ANZAC Day Dawn Service, which began at 6am on 25 April.

“We should also consider what we can all do in the ongoing struggle for a better, more peaceful world,” said Major Randall, a Te Horo resident from the New Zealand Army.

Major Randall is also Chair of the Ōtaki RSA Poppy Trust which, through its Poppy Day collections, enables welfare support to service people, ex-service people and veterans in the community, from Manakau through to Waikanae.

Ōtaki RSA President Hone (John) Underwood opened the Dawn Service, where the crowd packed the Memorial Gardens and the area of Main Street next to the gardens.

This year’s ANZAC Day service saw the biggest crowd ever to attend this annual event, Mr Underwood said.

On ANZAC Day each year “we especially remember those who gave their lives for our country,” Major Randall said.

“The grievous losses suffered by our country in the First World War brought grief and despair to homes across New Zealand.

“The heavy casualties at Gallipoli and the Western Front came as a particular shock because New Zealand had no previous experience of the huge toll that artillery, machine guns and the other weapons of industrial warfare could inflict.

“The First World War was widely seen in New Zealand and elsewhere as the ‘war to end wars.’

“But as we all know it was not, and our world is still ravaged by conflict – in Ukraine, Gaza and elsewhere.

“Two years ago, I was on operations in Germany supporting the co-ordination and distribution of donated equipment and aid to the war efforts in Ukraine.

“As I worked closely with fellow officers from the Ukraine armed forces I often wondered what and how they were feeling beneath their usual cheerful and professional demeanour – what fears they might be holding around the future of their nation and the safety for the people of Ukraine.”

Those were “fears for them that unfortunately remain to this day,” Major Randall said.

“For a substantial portion of the years since the first unveiling of the war memorials in 1923, New Zealand has been involved in wars, conflicts and other military operations around the world.

“In more recent years, the Defence Force has served in a wide range of operations overseas in places as diverse as Timor-Leste, Afghanistan, Iraq and South Sudan, or in domestic duties such as the Covid-19 response or leading the recovery efforts during Cyclone Gabrielle.

“What all these operations have demonstrated is that today’s New Zealand military personnel, like those who have gone before them, are dedicated to upholding New Zealand’s national interests and the principles we hold dear.

“In the last 30 years alone there are over 30,000 veterans of contemporary operations.

“Today, on ANZAC Day, we also acknowledge that this modern service, just as it was in the past, is never without costs to our men and women in the armed forces and to their families.

“But the costs are not, and were not, worn just by the immediate families of those who served.

“Each name on our memorial represents churches, cricket teams and rugby clubs, school rolls, hapū and iwi.

“They represent the wider communities such





as ours here in Ōtaki, all of whom collectively also bear the brunt and weather the costs of conflict.

“If we ask ‘is the ANZAC flame dimming?’ I would suggest not from the turnout this morning, from the 40 Raukawa rangatahi who gathered at a hui last night to research and learn about their tupuna who have served, from all the community and service groups who, mostly voluntarily, give their energy and effort to our community: St John, the Scouts, Te Awhi Rito Trust, the ladies in the Hospice Shop and many more who all enrich Ōtaki with their service.

“And perhaps this is an appropriate time to say a sincere thank you and salute all the good folks who volunteer to serve in the fire brigades in Ōtaki and Te Horo and acknowledge the dangers that they willingly face.

“What the future holds for us all is unknown. “But [it is] certainly ours to be shaped.

“I was fortunate enough early in my military career to visit South Korea, a nation split by a vicious civil war over 70 years ago.

“At the United Nations Memorial in Seoul, etched on the wall in brass, was the short but poignant statement: ‘freedom is not free’.

“While the price of freedom is high it is certainly a price worth paying,” Major Randall said.

“We thank you, Ōtaki, for coming out this morning to recognise those soldiers who didn’t come back from the wars that Aotearoa New Zealand has played our part in,” Ōtaki Community Board Chair, Cam Butler, said in his speech.

“Thank you also to the people who have been proudly wearing a poppy or sprig of rosemary in remembrance.

“As we ourselves stand here side by side to honour the fallen we can start to imagine the camaraderie of our troops as they too stood side by side.

Soldiers that could have been only weeks earlier from different parts of the county, different occupations and different cultures were thrown together under extreme stress on the other side of the world with only each other to rely on,” Mr Butler said.

The dawn service was a time to think about those who served in the armed forces, those who continue to serve and “about those who have lost their lives,” he said.

images clockwise from top p 8:
Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki singing “Māori Battalion March to Victory” during the dawn service.

The wreaths on the ANZAC memorial.
Major Rupert Randall delivering the guest address at the ANZAC Day service.

Ōtaki RSA President Hone (John) Underwood opening the dawn service.

Cam Butler and Chris Papps laying a wreath on behalf of the Ōtaki Community Board.

The Ōtaki Scouts at the dawn service.

Some of the parade lined up on Main Street just before the ANZAC Day Dawn Service.



Ōtaki tennis senior champions 2024

BY FRANK NEILL

Jackie Gould and Callan Nikora are the Ōtaki Sports Club's 2024 tennis singles champions.

For Callan it was one of three club titles he won, while Jackie won two.

Callan and Tom Caines kicked off the club championships finals when they met to decide the men's singles.

The match featured some big serving and ground strokes from both players, with Callan taking out a 6-4, 6-0 victory.

Callan then teamed up with Pātaka Moore, and they went into the doubles final having won it for the previous two years.

In a tight three-set battle against Tom Caines and Craig Eves they emerged the winners, giving them three titles in a row.

Callan's third championship came in the mixed doubles when he teamed up with Emma Whiterod in the final.

They took out a straight sets victory over Craig Eves and Leonie Campbell to take

home the Whiterod Whānau Trophy.

Jackie's two titles came in the women's single and pairs.

Her first title came when she teamed up with Hannah Grimmert and they defeated Leonie Campbell and Jodie Lawson.

Hannah and Jackie were then back on the court again for the singles final.

Following a closely fought first set, Jackie pulled away in the second set to become the new champion.

Terri Grimmert beat Jessica Wilkinson in the women's singles plate final, while Isaac Cant and Travis Robertson defeated Andrew Martin and Anthony Bazalo in the men's doubles plate final.

below left Callan Nikora and Emma Whiterod with the Whiterod Whānau Trophy. below right: Hannah Grimmert (left) and Jackie Gould, who won the women's doubles title, with Jackie also taking out the singles championship.



Convincing win to season start

BY FRANK NEIL

Ōtaki Purutaitama opened their 2024 Football season with a very convincing victory over Kāpiti Coast United Sopranos at Haruātai Park on 6 April.

The reigning Horowhenua-Kāpiti Football champions, Purutaitama won the match 6-1 after they led 3-0 at half time.

The home team dominated for most of the match, allowing the Sopranos only two or three scoring opportunities, one of which they took.

The match featured two hat tricks, with both Te Hau Cook and Travis Robertson finding the back of the net three times.

Te Hau was outstanding, and was rewarded with three most valued player (MVP) points.

Fergus Roy, who won two MVP points, and Josh Furze, with one point, also played well.

Purutaitama followed up their first round win with a 4-1 victory over Paekākāriki Tuatahi on 13 April.

Te Hau scored his second hat trick of the season, again netting three goals. He was rewarded with one MVP point.

Jacko Murray scored Purutaitama's other goal.

Matthew Braddock had an outstanding game and was awarded three MVP points and Fergus Roy also played well and netted two MVP points.

A weakened Purutaitama team did not fare so well in their third match of the season.

Waikanae Rangers came to Haruātai Park and won the match 4-0.

Both the hat-trick scorers from the opening game, Te Hau and Travis, did not feature.

Although Te Hau began the match, an injury from the week before significantly reduced his usually strong influence, and he was substituted.

Travis was out of town for the match.

Fergus was the sole scorer for the home team, and won two MVP points.

Wakahuia Cook-Porter and Josh Furze both had good games for Purutaitama, with Wakahuia winning three MVP points and Josh one point.

below: Te Hau Cook beats another defender during the team's season opener on 6 April.



Four victories kick off Rāhui season

BY FRANK NEILL

Rāhui's premier Rugby team has kicked off its season with four strait victories and is the only undefeated team in the Rambotham Cup competition.

On the results to date they look the most likely contenders to win the 2024 Horowhenua Kāpiti championship, just as they did last year.

In its fourth round match, played at the Ōtaki Domain on 20 April, Rāhui dominated Foxton, winning 45-15.

They ran in six tries to Foxton's two.

The first 10 minutes of the match was relatively even, with each team scoring a try, but from there Rāhui pulled away, and led 20-8 at half time.

The second spell saw them even more dominant, scoring 25 points to Foxton's seven.

Morehu Connor-Phillips, Leon Ellison, Regan Verney, Tonill Raureti, Polly Connor-Phillips and Alizay Roach each scored a try.

Alizay kicked one conversion and two penalties and Tama Cook added one conversion also.

Rāhui also comfortably defeated Waikanāe

on 13 April, winning 36-5.

Just as they did against Foxton, Rāhui scored six tries.

Jake Quin, Kapu Broughton-Winterburn, Leighton Ralph, Morehu Connor-Phillips, Mason Councman and Joel Winterburn all dotted down.

Alizay Roach added three conversions.

Nopera Rikihana chalked up a milestone in this match, playing his 50th premier game for Rāhui.

What was scheduled as a match under floodlights at the Ōtaki Domain on Wednesday 3 April ended up with nobody taking the field, as Paraparaumu defaulted the match, handing Rāhui victory on a plate.

In the season opener on 23 March Rāhui notched up another convincing victory, beating Shannon 42-10.

The day after the season opener Rāhui's Jack Tatu-Robertson played for Sweden's national team in its match against Lithuania, helping his team to a 27-8 win.

The Rāhui Old Timer's Day will be held on Saturday 8 June. The premier team will play Shannon at the Ōtaki Domain on the day.



above Hayden Rasmussen makes another great run for Rāhui, supported by Tama Cook.



Hole in one for Riley Moy

BY FRANK NEILL

Young Ōtaki golfer Riley Moy created the highlight of day one at the Manawatu-Whanganui Age Group Championships for individuals when he scored an ace on 18 April.

Riley's hole in one came on his last hole, the par three ninth.

Riley, who is 18 years old, was playing in the under 19 division of the two-day tournament.

He did not feature among the leaders, however, with the ace being his highlight of the tournament, as well as the day one

highlight for the event.

It was not Riley's first hole in one. Around four or five years ago he also notched up an ace while playing on the Ōtaki golf course.

Riley was also a member of the victorious Wellington team at the Manawatu-Whanganui team Championships on 13 and 14 April.

He was one of the four player team that came away with the Shand Salver.

The win saw the Wellington team claim back-to-back victories in the event.

left: Young Ōtaki golfer Riley Moy holds the flag after hitting an ace.

Titans win collection of medals

BY FRANK NEILL

The two Ōtaki Titans who travelled to Australia for the Oceania Swimming Championships – Phoebe Nelson and Kokoro Frost – came back with a good collection of medals.

The championships were held at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre in Southport, Queensland, from 21 to 24 April.

in the 4x100 metres freestyle and the 4x100 metres medley relay.

He won a bronze medal in the 50 metres backstroke and again in the 50 metres freestyle.

Kokoro also finished sixth in the 100 metres backstroke and finished second in the B final of the 50 metres freestyle.

One of 10 swimmers in the New Zealand team, Phoebe won two silver and two bronze medals.

Her two silver medals came in relays – the 4x100 metres freestyle relay and the mixed relay.

Phoebe won the bronze medal in the 50 metres freestyle and her second bronze medal came in the 50 metres backstroke.

Kokoro swam in the Samoan team and his two silver medals also came in the relays.

Samoa was second

The Ōtaki Titans Swimming Club climaxed the last day of term one with their Wacky Wednesday competition on 10 April.

The event proved to be amazing, with three teams of 11 competing for top place in a variety of fun relays.

Team Careys were the overall winners and received both bragging rights and a free sausage sizzle.

The club says it was a fun way to end the term and at the same time they invite more members of the Ōtaki community to join the club.

The club will hold its annual swim-a-thon on 9 May.

This will see the swimmers getting their whānau and friends sponsor them for 15 or 30 minutes of non-stop lap swimming or kicking.

Term two swimming began on 29 April, and people are welcome to join the swimmers, who will be at the Ōtaki Swimming Pool from 5pm to 6pm on Mondays and Wednesdays, with Friday fun days from 5pm to 7pm.



left: Kokoro Frost in action.



Gardening with

Garden tasks for May



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Flower garden

Autumn is a great time to plant new trees and shrubs – they can become established over the cooler, wetter winter months. Add long term fertiliser at planting time, and tie to a support stake.

New season camellias, daphne and rhododendrons can also be planted to add welcome colour to the winter and early spring garden.

May is a moving month – many smaller shrubs, such as azaleas, hebes and gardenias can be transplanted this month. Prepare the soil in the new spot and water well afterwards.

It's your last chance to plant bulbs for a spring display.

There is time to plant lilies – they are easy to grow and can be planted any time between May and September. Work bulb food into the planting area and cover bulbs with 10cm of soil.

Shorten tops of dahlias in preparation for cutting down.

Trim back autumn flowering perennials, and mulch with compost.

New season's roses will soon be available – continue preparations for your new plants by adding plenty of compost to the soil.

Sow seeds of alyssum, sweet pea, lobelia, cineraria, lupin, statice, cornflower, calendula, nemesia and stock.

Plant out seedlings of calendula, viola, pansies, cineraria, stock, wallflower, snapdragon, nemesia, scabiosa, poppies, primula and polyanthus.

Fruit and vegetable garden

Cut asparagus back to within 15cm of ground level after the stems turn yellow.

As your leeks grow, pile up the soil around the stems to provide support and keep the stems white.

If you're not using your veggie patch over winter, think about sowing blue lupin or mustard seed as a winter crop. It's an easy way to add nutrients and improve soil structure for spring.

Hoe and thin autumn sown crops such as carrots.

Sow seeds of beetroot, broccoli, broad beans, cabbage, carrots, turnips, radish, spinach, swedes and onions directly into your garden.

Plant out seedlings of broccoli, silver beet, spring onions, cabbage and lettuce.

Dig over and manure rhubarb.

Plant your first strawberries – well established plants will fruit earlier and for longer this spring and summer.

Feed your citrus trees with citrus fertiliser – May is the best month to transplant citrus trees and to plant new ones.

Fruit tree pruning can start as soon as leaves have dropped.

Put in cuttings of bush fruit, such as gooseberries, currants and blueberries.

Thyme, chives, rosemary and bay can also be planted during May.

Lawns

Feed lawns to boost growth and suppress weed growth. Bare areas of lawn can be raked over and reseeded.

Second thoughts

Bring tender patio plants into a sheltered position and brighten your patio or deck by planting pots and hanging baskets with winter flowering annuals.

Focus on growing avocados

Avocados are reasonably hardy plants, but they demand a warm climate to produce edible fruit. The most common varieties around are 'Hass' – a fruit which most of us in New Zealand are familiar with – 'Bacon' and 'Zutano.'

A Mexican variety, the cold hardy Bacon produces smooth green skinned fruit which stays green even when ripe. Zutano has large to extra large fruit, with thin yellow green skin, produced in winter through to early spring. But there are more than 500 avocado plant varieties grown around the world, including 'Maluma' and the 'Carmen' avocado (also grown locally). While Hass has an oval shape and a thick, pebbly skin that darkens when ripe (like Maluma and Carmen) varieties like 'Reed' (a large and round shape) and 'Fuerte' remain green much like Bacon. The Carmen variety can produce two lots of fruit – spring and autumn. Spring fruit looks identical to Hass, with an oval shape and thick skin, and autumn-set fruit is larger, rounded and has a smoother skin than Hass. Fruit can be had almost all year round if you plant different cultivars.

The evergreen trees are handsome, although they can be untidy, dropping leaves constantly. Fast growing, they ultimately become a large tree of about 10 x 6m. Providing you have a warm, well-drained site (far enough away from salt spray, sheltered from winter winds and as near frost-free as possible, you can grow these edible beauties (though remember they take three to four years before fruit appears).

Drainage must be perfect, or root rot is inevitable. Planting on contoured mounds is one way to help improve drainage in less-than-perfect soil.

Avocados like a rich and fertile soil, so feed with a mulch of organic materials, composts and manures on a regular basis, at least four times a year in the growing season. Use additional nutrients such as Nitrophoska Blue Extra or a citrus fertiliser at rates of up to 250gm a tree for young trees, and up to 500gm for fruit-bearing ones and those over seven years old. Generally pruning is not necessary but you may want to prune hard to achieve a compact shape. Old overgrown trees will regenerate well if they are cut back hard, but this is best done over a period of at least two seasons.

Water your trees during dry spells, particularly if they're carrying large crops (avocados like moist, not wet, soil) and protect from extended periods of frost.

Growing from seed is an interesting experiment to share with children, but most commercially available plants are grafted.

Avocados are one of nature's superfoods. The fruit is high in fibre and, gram for gram, tops the charts among all fruits for folate, potassium and vitamin E. They are also an excellent source of omega-3, B-group vitamins, and vitamins A and K. And of course, they contain the good fats (monounsaturated) which help maintain our low cholesterol levels.

go to www.yates.co.nz or www.kingseeds.co.nz (available from Ōtaki Hydroponics, Old State Highway 1)

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the Ōtaki Mail

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

Mulberries: an old-school memory

Once a crop of the backyard (rather than a commercial crop), today you'd be hard-pressed to find someone under 50 who has tasted or even seen a ripe mulberry. Although rarely found for sale except occasionally at farmers markets or roadside stalls, the blackberry-like fruit is beginning to attract attention owing to the popularity of all things berry. Mulberries are self-fertile (so you'll only need one), and the archetypal, easy-care fruit tree. Once established, they will effortlessly cope with drought, frost and neglect, happily growing and fruiting, albeit slowly, in all parts of New Zealand. The plants can be grown as a bush or a standard tree (they have a graceful, stately habit and attractive leaves) although some varieties of the latter eventually reach a height of 10m or more, which makes them a tad large for many modern gardens.

The red to black fruit is tender, sweet, and juicy, containing vitamin C, K, B and E, as well as potassium, magnesium, iron and fibre. It is a particular favourite of birds, whose determined pillaging and ingenuity knows no bounds (netting is essential). Ripe fruit will fall of its own accord and can be gathered from inside your net. It can also be hand-picked but judging ripeness can be tricky, and unripe berries are rather sour. Ripe fruit has a shelf life of a day at most, so don't delay when they start to fall. Best eaten fresh, the fruit works well in any recipe aimed at blackberries. Freezing is the most practical option of preservation, as the fruit soon disintegrates when rapidly heated.

You can choose from the red mulberry, (*Morus rubra*), native to North America, the black mulberry (*Morus nigra*), native to southwestern Asia (but often called the English mulberry), and the white mulberry, (*Morus alba*), native to China. All three species are deciduous, and fruit on current season's growth so they can be pruned hard each winter

(when dormant) to control the size and maximise new fruiting wood. All are available in New Zealand and have similar growing requirements.

Mulberries have a deep rooting system, and like warm, deep, well-drained loam. Although fairly drought resistant they need plenty of water when in fruit, or berries may drop prematurely. They can turn rather aggressive if fed too generously, so a sparse dressing of blood and bone twice yearly is about right.

Black mulberry is the variety by which all others are measured. When ripe the fruit is delicious, with rich, wine-like juice, and few seeds (a word of warning though, the fruit stains easily, so plant away from paths and washing lines).

'European Black' is a sturdy, relatively fast-growing tree with abundant crops of black fruit.

White mulberries are considered the king of dessert fruit in the Middle East, and better cultivars produce masses of luscious, sweet, finger-length fruit over a long season.

'Pendula' is a weeping variety with slender branches trailing from a gnarled trunk. It has inconspicuous greenish-white flowers that bloom in spring followed by pinkish white to violet, blackberry-like fruit.

'Strawberry Shahtoot' produces clusters of long, sweet fruit with a strawberry-like flavour.

The red mulberry doesn't crop as heavily as the others, nor are the berries as big but it has quirky habits – fruit mature from fuzzy, green knots to pink and eventually black-red berries.

'Hicks Early' is a white/red hybrid (*Morus alba* x *Morus rubra*) propagated by Incredible Edibles – a vigorous, undemanding tree with good yields.



Pansy power

Although they look fragile, pansies are one of the toughest performers for chilly winter and early spring gardens. Who can resist falling for that velvety face – whether plain, patterned, smudged or be-whiskered? They come in more colours than the rainbow – ruby red and regal purple, azure blue and glowing gold, apricot and rusty brown, snowy white and even black.

Experts find it difficult to draw a precise line between pansies and violas, and the relationship has become blurred over time, although the year 1810 was significant in the development of the pansy. This was when it took the fancy of a Mr T. Tomson, head gardener to Lord Gambier, a retired admiral with a passion for gardening. The gardener developed the pansy by crossing and re-crossing varieties of *Viola tricolor* (heartsease) with the yellow *Viola lutea* and *Viola altaica*. The flowers he introduced lost their long *Viola* faces and became rounder and more richly coloured.

By the middle of the 19th century hundreds of new pansies were on the market, and today's modern hybridists continue to create a mixture of opulent and enchanting varieties that are more tolerant of weather extremes, especially the heat.

Pansies are perfect bedding plants, but they do not always have to be tucked primly under larger plants. They make a cheery carpet for tall bulbs or planted in drifts of one colour to make a bold statement. Maybe a sea of celestial blue, such as the old-fashioned 'Maggie Mott,' rusty brown or chocolate like the miniature, yellow-whiskered, 'Velour Frosted Chocolate' or maybe dramatic black – 'Bowles Black' self-seeds freely so you will never run out of plants.

However, possibly the best way to grow pansies is in containers, and providing your plants receive plenty of moisture, they will love the well-drained potting mix. It is an ideal way to keep them away from foraging slugs and snails who are active in cool, rainy weather.

Plant out pansies in full sun in well-drained soil, although if you are planting in the summer months choose a semi-shaded spot rather than full sun and opt for the large-flowered varieties (pansies tend to produce smaller flowers

in hot weather).

I think pansies are at their best in autumn, winter and early spring. The cool weather keeps the foliage compact so the buds and flowers can rise above it, and they are much less likely to suffer from mildew.

In cold weather the petals of all pansies are thicker, more velvet like, and there is generally no problem with aphids. Ruffled pansies, such as 'Frizzle Sizzle,' which is bred for earliness and uniformity, must have cold weather to for the ruffles to develop properly.

Whether you see a cat's face, a butterfly or simply a sumptuous combination of colours when you look at their pretty, picture-perfect faces, there's no doubt these cold weather plants consistently light up the dullest days.



Fire Brigade Sky Tower Challenge

BY FRANK NEILL

A team of five Ōtaki volunteer firefighters will take part in the gruelling Sky Tower Challenge on Saturday 18 May. The Ōtaki team is Simon Black, Mike Alderton, Kieran Bloxham, Gavin La Frenz and Dave McHattie.

They will join firefighters from throughout New Zealand and overseas in a competition that has the main aim of raising money for Leukaemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand's mission to care and vision to seek a cure.

The team will climb the 51 flights of stairs at Auckland's Sky Tower, dressed in full firefighting kit, including breathing apparatus.

This is the same gear fire fighters wear when attending a structural fire.

This kit weighs in at more than 25kg, making the 1,103 steps they must climb up to the observation peak on level 51 of the Sky Tower a gruelling undertaking.

They will be, after all, climbing up the tallest building in the southern hemisphere, which is 328 metres high.

Each participant will be timed, allowing for individual and team results to be determined.

Simon will be looking to emulate last year's feat, when he set a new personal best time for the challenge.

Last year Mike recorded exactly the same time as he had set the year before.

The team has been training hard for the contest, including practising at the Majestic Centre in Wellington.

The Magestic Centre has 28 floors, so they need to climb it at least twice to emulate the Sky Tower Challenge.

The team is hoping that this year they can surpass their 2023 total of about \$6,000 they raised for Leukaemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand

Every day eight New Zealanders are diagnosed with blood cancer or a related blood condition. It can affect anyone, at any age and any time in life.

Leukaemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand supports thousands of New Zealanders affected by blood cancer, as well as their families.

In addition, the organisation supports and funds research into better treatments and into finding a cure for blood cancers.

Now in its 20th year, the Sky Tower Challenge has raised more than \$12 million for blood cancer patients and their families.

It raised \$17,500 in its first year – 2005 – and now consistently raises more than \$1 million a year.

People wishing to support the Ōtaki team's Sky Tower Challenge climb can make a donation at <https://firefighterschallenge.org.nz>. Click on "Check out the brigades" then type "Ōtaki" under the headings "Check out the Leaderboard" and "Check out the brigades".

below: Fire Brigade Sky Tower Challenge training session



below: one of the five March fires



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2pm, Saturday 27 July, 2024

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Contact **Sue Barrett**
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 to register for the event.

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

"Whānau tupu ngātahi – families growing together"

Event Programme

2:00pm	Doors open Whānau welcomed
2:30pm	Whakatauki & Karakia Whaikōrero Speeches from the decades Cutting of cake eldest and youngest Performances musical & poetical Kai & cuppa Reminiscing

Looking forward to seeing you there!
 Titiro whakamua ki te kīte i a koe ki reira!

Ōtaki College News

May 2024

www.otakicollege.school.nz

From the Acting Principal

Kia ora, Ōtaki College community. With our principal, Andy Fraser, being awarded a teacher's sabbatical, I am privileged to be acting in this role during Term Two. Joining our Senior Leadership Team (Jarrad Porima, Jess Torley, Dawn Hirschberg, Ian McMillan and myself), are our previous Deputy Principal, Marion Lumley, and former Tumuaki of Te Kura-ā-Iwi o Whakatapuranga Rua Mano, Keremihana Heke. I feel very privileged to work alongside such a skilled team.

Terms Two and Three are important terms for students to focus on learning. Seniors are concentrating on gaining recognition for their learning through NCEA assessment. Please talk with your child about how they are keeping on track with their NCEA. A basic rule of thumb is that students gain 3–4 credits per subject per term. This will keep seniors on track to achieve NCEA by the end of the year. Also, most Year 10 students will be assessed for the NCEA Literacy and Numeracy co-requisite mid-Term Two. During Term Two, lunchtime classes are starting to support students if they would like extension and/or support.

Winter sports are also starting. We wish all our teams the best of success this term as they attend their practises, develop skills and use these as they compete. There is also a variety of clubs, music and drama performances that students can participate in – so please encourage your child to make the most of extra-curricular activities in Term 2.

Finally, if you have any questions about the achievement or well-being of your child, please contact the Kaihautū for your child: Megan Nelson-Latu (Years 7–9), Jude Broughton (Years 10–11) or Coline Diver (Years 12–13) or any of the Senior Leadership Team.

Thank you for your ongoing support

Ngā mihi nui

Hamish Wood, Acting Principal

NPDL: New Pedagogies for Deep Learning Update

We finished 2023 with a number of different deep learning projects engaging our Year 7–10 students and sharing our learning in various ways. All new learning comes with challenges, continued growth and problem solving, as well as successes to celebrate. For our first attempts in Term 4 last year, students and teachers gave similar feedback:

- More enjoyment was had when students were able to make choices about their topics.
- Teachers enjoyed having the time, freedom and space to engage in collaborative teaching and learning with colleagues from different departments.
- Students gained powerful experience and confidence, engaging with the public and learning partners throughout their deep learning projects.
- The “transferable” or “soft,” skills – also called Deep Learning Competencies – are where most of the learning occurred for students. Many student reflections shared comments with strengths in these areas and a willingness to be more active in developing them further.

What’s happening in 2024?

As we continue our journey adding Deep Learning projects and competencies to our student experiences, our staff and students will be engaged in the following:

- Staff are currently working on designing Year 9 and 10 semester courses to offer greater choice for students in 2025. Watch this space for updates soon.
- The English department is trialling this semester approach with Year 11 classes. We are excited to work with students choosing their courses. Check out English L1 Semester 1 Choices. New themes and



above: Parekawa Finlay (front, third from right) and some of the students who enjoyed her performance at Otaki College last month

below: ODE3 at Castlepoint

bottom: ODE2 on the Whanganui River

contexts will be offered in Semester 2.

- Deep Learning projects are being integrated into varied classes for years 7–10 throughout the year.
- Deep Learning Competencies are being included in a wide range of learning from Years 7–13, continuing the work from previous years.

Performance by Parekawa Finlay

Over 100 Ōtaki College students from Years 9–13 came and watched this amazing performance from ex-student Parekawa Finlay. Parekawa describes it as “An investigation of both real-life events in Aotearoa and the internal colonisation of her mind.”

In the show Parekawa unravels her personal journey of creating a solo work based on the life of a soldier, artist and coloniser from the 1860s. Through writing this show, she is unlearning, unmasking and freeing her mind. Horatio Robley 1864 vs Parekawa Finlay 2024!

Students afterwards discussed moko, colonisation, creating art, how we know our history and life beyond Ōtaki College. It was fantastic and inspiring for our students to spend this time with Parekawa.

Term One, Outdoor Education

Term One Outdoor Education at Ōtaki College has been an epic journey for students across all year groups. ODE3 students experienced the thrill of surfing at Castlepoint and white-water kayaking the challenging rapids of the Rangitikei River. ODE2 students embarked on an unforgettable canoeing adventure along the Whanganui River, from Whakahoro to Pipiriki. ODE1 students honed their climbing skills at Hangdog, while 10ODE students showcased their creativity and teamwork through raft building. We scored epic weather for all trips and the dedication and enthusiasm of the students has been legendary. A massive thank you to Howard Manins, Charlie Simpson and Chris Georgetti for their support throughout the term.

Kent Pollard, TIC Outdoor Education



Mayor Holborow's report

BY JANET HOLBOROW

In April we hosted some important visitors in Kāpiti, most notably a visit to various sites by the Prime Minister. After his visit to Ōtaki, Senior Council staff and I caught up with him at the Mills Albert operations centre. We took the opportunity to tell him about a new education programme which is to be run jointly by Mills Albert and Council.

Earlier in the week, Chief Executive Darren Edwards and I hosted a visit from Infrastructure and Housing Minister Chris Bishop and MP for Ōtaki Tim Costley to talk about the work we're doing to support growth in Kāpiti.

Sitting down and taking them through our work and what comes next for Kāpiti District was a valuable as a chance to show the massive undertaking we have underway in Kāpiti and what we're working towards.

One of the projects we talked about was the Ōtaki Reservoir, currently under construction. The project is on track to be finished later this year and come on stream in early 2025, and will provide a resilient water supply to support growth in Ōtaki.

We had a lot to learn from this project in

terms of how we communicate early with residents about projects which affect them. We are now working with neighbours on landscaping and planting to enhance the area. The vision is to extensively plant the site to create a biodiversity-focussed area with native trees and plants to attract birds and other fauna. It'll also help screen the reservoir from neighbours.

Students from Waitohu School visited the site recently. It's part of a programme the team is running for two year four classes about the new reservoir and its role in the water system. They're learning about where their water comes from, why we're building the reservoir and how the new reservoir will improve the Ōtaki water supply.

At the site visit, the students carried out an activity to see how big the reservoir will be. They also checked out some of the site equipment and peered into the trenches where the pipes are buried. The students will be back in a couple of months to help plant some of the the 2,500 native trees that'll surround the tank.

Programmes like this are valuable, helping tamariki foster whakapapa build



above: (l-r) MP for Ōtaki Tim Costley, Minister of Housing Chris Bishop, Mayor of Kāpiti Janet Holborow, KCDC CEO Darren Edwards

understanding of the important projects which support our communities.

Another opportunity for our tamariki to learn and develop skills is the Ōtaki Kids Market. With participants from as far away as Ashurst, the last market creativity shone with a range of stalls on display, from 3D prints to dog supplies to cupcakes.

Huge thanks to Claire Roper and the Ōtaki Market Team who brought this together. Their next plan is a workshop with stallholders to teach marketing and business skills. A great opportunity for these young entrepreneurs. The market team is planning a workshop during the winter months to teach skills around business and marketing.

Out and about with Shell

BY SHELLY WARWICK – ŌTAKI WARD COUNCILLOR

April has been a busy month for council with the finalizing of the Long-Term Plan draft for consultation and the pop-up events that staff have organized to engage the community. Elected members have attended alongside staff to reach out to the community for feedback on the Long-Term Plan. A Long-term plan is basically a budget for the next 3 years of operations and capital spend for the district, but looks ahead 10 years. Despite council capping its capital works program and putting a cap on staffing to try and lower costs, the fact is that, just like all households currently, councils' costs have gone up. A very frustrating part of being a councillor is that central government keeps sending work streams to local councils that they are required to do, not asked to do. But with the workstreams and changes there is no funding attached, so the ratepayer's foot the bill. All councils are struggling and at some stage there has to be a change. In Kapiti we have a higher-than-average older population that may be asset rich but

cash poor and increasing costs are putting a lot of pressure on our community. How we change this is something all councils are trying to find the answer to. Councillors and council staff are all ratepayers as well, and are equally affected by rates increases, but we have to keep the lights on, services open and infrastructure functioning.

On a more positive note, I did a stint collecting for poppy day with Penny Gaylor GWRC. As always, the Ōtaki community are very generous and even though times are tough for many there was a lot of generosity around for our service men and women and RSA. To those who are in the services, thank you for the contribution you make to ensure we live in a peaceful Aotearoa, we are very lucky to be on our little pacific island away from so much conflict all over the world.

Lest we forget our Anzacs and all the service people who are no longer with us.



above: Ōtaki Ward Councillor Shelly Warwick and GWRC Cr Penny Gaylor

Ōtaki Community Board

BY JACKIE ELLIOTT – ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER

Right now KCDC is in the middle of Long-term Plan (LTP) 2024–2034 consultation. The plan is called 'Building a resilient future for Kāpiti'. (Take a note now of these dates).

Kāpiti's residents have until Sunday 28 April to read the 47-page consultation document, make a formal submission and have your say on the plans and proposed rates rises. The proposed average rates rises (excluding GWRC regional rates) are:

2024/25	17%
2025/26	7%
2026/27	7%
2027/28	7%
2028/29	7%

Particularly noted for Ōtaki is that on page 23, there is no further budget to remediate the Blue Bluff slip blocked access road to into the Ōtaki Gorge campsite past June this year. If getting back into the gorge and Tararua ranges is important to you, please make an urgent submission. BTW, any proposed swing bridge up there was deemed unbuildable by staff and geotechnical engineers over two months ago, and anyone who continues to promote this option is being irresponsible to the extreme. Also, as pointed out by Ōtaki Ward Councillor Shelly

Warwick, any budget for the replacement of the earthquake-risk prone Ōtaki Library and Memorial Hall has completely dropped off in this LTP.

How do I know this for sure? Because on my office shelf sit the four big, glossy, indexed, bound parts of the previous Long-term Plan 2021–2041 called 'Our Plan for securing our future'. A total of 672 pages. The forecast average rates rises (excl GWRC) in this document are:

2024/25	2.5%
2025/26	4.6%
2026/27	7.2%
2027/28	1.9%
2028/29	2.1%

Remember, I said to take a note of these dates; slightly further along my shelf and slightly dustier are the two bound parts of Toitu Kāpiti Long-term Plan 2018–2038. 'Building a Stronger Kapiti together'. At a modest 261 pages and also featuring a handy index, the costs of production of these documents needs to be noted.

I am getting serious déjà vu at this point, saved only by the discernible difference that Angela and I were both brunettes in 2018

and blondes in 2021, but here for your reference are your proposed average rates increases in this document, according to the graph. (Again, exclude GWRC)

2024/25	2.9%
2025/26	4.1%
2026/27	1.4%
2027/28	2.0%
2028/29	0.3%

If you also have déjà vu at this point, I am sorry to say it but in exactly three years' time you will be being asked to submit on the next LTP as proposed by the next elected council.

Why (Oh, why?)

Firstly, it is government policy that every single council do so and produce either annual plans or long-term plans, plus numerous strategies, policies and bylaws and all their updates. When I was first elected 11 years ago, it was estimated that in that year in the Wellington region alone, over 660 different documents of these types, with all their associated consultation were legislatively required to be produced.

And behind the scenes at KCDC, to deliver the current LTP, staff have facilitated and

advised at over 12 public and public-excluded workshops, numerous briefings, and brainstorm sessions from December 2023 until now – and more will occur before it is finally born in June this year. The cost of which I consistently estimated over the years at being around \$1000 in staff costs in the chambers each hour of each session. That's sad when I recall councillors were instructed to not consider any part of any previous LTP in any deliberations or use them as a starting point to shorten the process, as it was all outdated. It is no surprise our proposed average rates rise this year is 17 per cent.

So yes, I have been a part of the council machine for long enough to tell you here, how it works inside. If you are wondering, I can confirm I have voted against more annual plans and LTPs than any other past councillor, because they were not fiscally sound or sustainable when funded by rates. And, yes, I did something about it: 10 years of solid lobbying in Wellington and for support from elected members across the country for a government review of a very broken local-government sector that ratepayers simply cannot afford to keep propping up.

CAP using controversial models of sea-level rises

BY FRANK NEILL

The Coastal Advisory Panel (CAP) set up by the Kāpiti Coast District Council is using highly controversial and implausible modelling of sea-level rises, Tanya Lees told the 9 April meeting of the Ōtaki Community Board.

“And secondly, the CAP is not appropriately engaging with the community,” she said.

Tanya is member of Kāpiti CALM, a grassroots group of residents and business owners who are concerned about the process, modelling and science being used in relation to the Coastal Adaptation Areas for the Kāpiti Coast.

The CAP, Tanya said, was supposed to lead a “community-led” process “but CALM doesn’t see much evidence of this at all.”

Rather, “the residents of Kāpiti are told to ‘wait and see what happens when the recommendations are presented to council’, but that’s absurd.

“It’s like going to a restaurant and being told to sit there and wait to be served a dish, then once it arrives being handed a menu.

“The scheduled April 10th meeting was supposed to be the opportunity – at long last – for CAP to be available for a face-to-face question and answer session and to receive feedback from the entire community.

“And then it was cancelled due to an internal CAP meeting being rescheduled to the same day.”

There was “no formal notification to the community and ... no alternative date or venue.

“The Raumati Community Board managed a meeting like this successfully over two nights.

“And CALM was able to put together a meeting to inform residents of the CAP process and we don’t even get funding.

“The other issue which needs addressing is that if we question the extreme science that the CAP scientist would have us believe, then we’re labelled as climate deniers,

conspiracy theorists, tinfoil hatters and peddlers of misinformation.

“These are all disparaging terms which are divisive and offer no constructive benefit.

“CALM has only ever advocated for honest, respectful discussion where viewpoints from other leading experts, such as local Sean Rush, are taken into consideration, as scientific consensus is nowhere near settled.

“We have continuously asked for likely sea-rise scenarios of SSP/PCP4.5 to be applied, as recommended internationally by the IPCC.”

SSP stands for Shared Socioeconomic Pathway and SSPs are now being used as important inputs for the latest climate change models. The IPCC is the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

“CAP continues to insist on the 8.5 modelling with a 1% probability of occurring, which has absolutely no rationale.

“Where is the justification, as CALM hasn’t received a formal explanation despite months of questioning this?”

“Is this due to the fact that the gravy train needs the more powerful 8.5 engine for the Land Grab Express to reach its desired destination?” Tanya asked.

“The costs continue to rise for a process undertaken by a debt-ridden council which was not even a statutory requirement in the first place.

“Both CALM and the community at large continue to question the CAP process.

“When will we have a forum in which these valid questions can be answered?”

Tanya then asked the community board to take the “community’s very real concerns to the council as a matter of urgency.”

Loud applause followed her presentation.

CAP member Don Day also attended the community board meeting.

“One of the recommendations that we will

be including in the [CAP] report [to the council] is that there is a need for a fairly significant engagement process that will have to be managed by the council,” Don said.

“That will certainly give it statutory status.”

A community engagement process was needed “so that the recommendations that we make can actually be subjected to scrutiny by the community before the council makes any decisions,” he said.

The Ōtaki Community Board approved five grants to five local organisations and people at its last two meetings.

Four of the grants were approved at its 9 April meeting.

Ōtaki Playcentre was granted \$822 to assist with the cost of celebrating its 70th anniversary in July.

Te Ataarangi ki Ōtaki was granted \$750 to assist with the cost of making rauemi

(learning resources) for students studying Te Reo Māori through the Te Ataarangi method.

Ōtaki School was granted \$1184 to assist with having a scooter track professionally painted on the school’s paved area.

Lucas Mildenhall was granted \$750 to assist with the cost of representing Aotearoa Māori Basketball at the Native American Basketball Invitational from 18 to 31 July in Phoenix, Arizona.

At its 5 March meeting the community board approved a grant of \$750 to the Ōtaki Bowling Club. The grant is to assist with the cost of replacing the green edging.

The edges of the bank above the bowling green were fraying, the bowling club’s Vice-President Jane Selby-Paterson told the meeting.

“Currently they are a slip- and trip-hazard,” she said.



Forest & Bird Horowhenua Branch
Annual General Meeting

Monday 20 May 2024 at 1:30pm
Thompson House, 4 Kent Street, Levin

Guest Speaker: Heather Heron-Spiers
of the Ngawakahiamoe Bush Trust

Followed by a light afternoon tea

For further information contact:
Geoff Ritchie 027 373 4576; or
Claudia Mason 022 500 4179
email: horowhenua.branch@forestandbird.org.nz



Ōtaki MP’s report

BY TIM COSTLEY



What a great month it’s been. I’ve been busy around our region, from visiting schools and businesses to meeting with seniors, visiting a local olive grove, the kids market on the old main road, and of bringing the Prime Minister to Ōtaki was a real highlight. But before that I want to give a special message to our rangatahi and students.

I’ve set up a local Youth Advisory Panel in Ōtaki. I want to hear what matters to our young people and I want to give them more of a voice. The first is on Thursday 16th May at 11am at the College. If you’re not involved and would like to be, please let me know.

I’m also keen to meet more of our local farmers, growers, producers and manufacturers around Ōtaki. If you’d like me to come and visit, please send me an invitation. I’m also very happy to come and speak and any local community groups and share a little about my time in the Air Force at home and overseas, or what I’m doing locally as your MP.

What a privilege to bring our Prime Minister to Ōtaki as his first visit in our region. He had just returned from his trip to Asia and I was able to convince him to come up the road and visit our town, before heading to Auckland for Anzac Day.

I chose to bring the PM to Ōtaki because I wanted to show-off what an amazing place it is; the place and the people. I was particularly proud to show him the amazing work that happens at a really local level. We believe in the value of towns like Ōtaki, and that the decisions we make as a Government should be based on our

experiences, not just what happens in the big cities.

Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki do amazing work with preventative health, school lunches, after-school programmes and helping our rangatahi or youth into work. I’m a big fan of all their work. Our Government believe in local solutions and empowering our community sector, so it was the perfect place to bring Chris Luxon to visit. I want to acknowledge Heniti and her team for the amazing work they do.

When the PM visited we heard and saw National’s commitment to this region, from Ō2NL to tackling the cost of living, growing our economy and improving public services like health and education. There is lots of work to do here and I’m committed to working hard to get the very best for all of us.

As part of this, over the last month I’ve visited paramedics and a local health clinic this month, trying to find a way to deliver more support locally. I’ve visited local schools, and in particular I want to single out the team at Manakau School for a fantastic morning in the sunshine, playing football with the kids and talking to them about Parliament and the Air Force.

It was also special to join Anzac Day commemorations. The sunset service in Ōtaki was a poignant end to the day, as it is for me every year. I also spoke at the dawn service in Paraparaumu, the Levin War Vets retirement service, the Levin civic service, and the Ohau community service. Thank you to everyone who organised, attended, and supported all these events.



above: Tim at an Anzac Day commemoration
below: Tim enjoys a morning at Manakau School



Arts & Books

Dad, you've got Dementia

REVIEWED BY ANN CHAPMAN

This is an honest wee book that lyrically describes a father's gradual decline into dementia as written by his daughter, Kristen Phillips, in a series of 'lost' conversations with him.

It is a book about staying connected, about the search for words while trying to continue a life-long bond. Many of the conversations were initially by phone from Kirsten's then-home in London, until nearer the end when she returned to Aotearoa New Zealand and was able to communicate and share an almost wordless life with him. By then her father was in care, and she recounts her

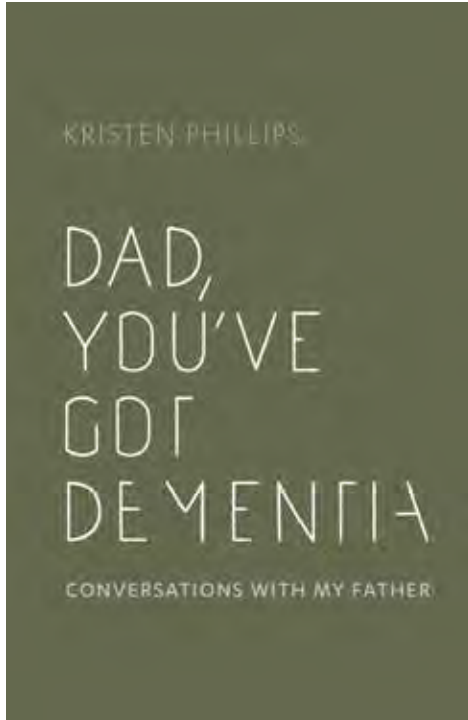
visits with honesty, love and thoughtfulness.

This is by no means a sad book, but merely a part of a journey she shared with her father – and now with us – in a poetic and loving way. It is an encouraging book to help ease the fear of caring for someone who has lost their ability to communicate; to find other means, rather than words, to continue the bond; and to share a life as it comes to an end.

Published by The Cuba Press

Price \$27

Available from Books & Co, Ōtaki



Delightful musical fundraiser

BY MARGARET ANDREWS

Three choirs, pianists and an organist, performances by French horn and trumpet players, well-known songs from Handel to Rodgers & Hammerstein, to the Beatles and Abba, with opportunities for the audience to join in – and a Devonshire tea to round off the afternoon – all made for a successful fundraiser for Ōtaki's Presbyterian Church last month.

"It was an entertaining afternoon. We were delighted the community helped us raise \$1000 towards the portico replacement," Margie Upson, one of the Presbyterian organisers said. "We're grateful to all the talented musicians who contributed to the

afternoon and the audience sing-a-long really did make it."

For the *Shades of Autumn* concert the choirs, Let's Sing Ōtaki, Sing Out Levin and Kāpiti Women's Choir, under director Ōtaki's Ann-Marie Stapp, came together with a programme of songs from earlier days – 'You're Adorable', 'Yesterday', 'Let it Be' and 'I'm a Believer' among their repertoire. The audience had opportunities to join the choirs with old favorites, 'You are My Sunshine', 'Edelweiss', 'Do-Re-Me' and for the finale everyone joined in Handel's 'Hallelujah' chorus from *Messiah*.

To open, concert pianist Heather Cameron

played Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons' first movement, Autumn, followed after the interval by Winter, the second movement, on the organ. She accompanied most of the choir numbers. A piano duet, 'Autumn Leaves' was played by Joseph Kosma and Jacques Pervert; a second duet by Heather and Marilyn Jeffery with 'Waltzing Matilda' and 'Canon' by Pachelbel; Donna Eldridge played 'Hedwig's Theme' on French horn;

and trumpet player Ann-Marie played the 'Trumpet Voluntary.' Choir pianists included Marilyn Jeffery with Kāpiti Women's Choir; Steph Weaver with Sing Out Levin; and Jillian Boyd accompanied Let's Sing Ōtaki.

This was an enjoyable afternoon for choirs, musicians and audience, with a wide variety of music and opportunities to win prizes with lucky-ticket-number draws.

image: Quentin Christie





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

Bird Child & Other Stories - Patricia Grace



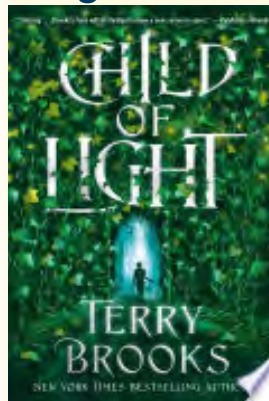
Mythology and contemporary Māori life are woven together through *Bird Child & Other Stories*. The collection is divided into three timelines. Firstly, there is pūrākau and pre-colonial Māori life. The second section is the 'Mereana' stories set in WW11 & post-war Te Whanganui-a-Tara. The third section is a collection of new stories set mostly in the present day. Kāpiti's legendary writer shows why she is a bastion of Māori writing. This novel is rich, well researched, immersive read. The title is available from any Kāpiti Library. REVIEWER: Nyria - Paraparaumu Library

FreeStyle - Gale Galligan



My book review is about a graphic novel called *FreeStyle*. It is about a boy named Cory and his life in intermediate school. Cory and his group of friends are a dance group that decide to enter a breakdancing competition. He becomes friends with a girl, usually known for being unusual and intelligent, but he is inspired by her awesome yo-yo tricks. Unfortunately, their friendship doesn't go down very well with his other friends. The story is funny and interesting, and luckily everything works out alright in the end. REVIEWER: Azaria, 11.

Child of Light (Series 1) Terry Brooks Daughter of Darkness (Series 2) - Terry Brooks



Exploring the fantasy genre led me to discover Terry Brooks, and his series, *Child of Light* and *Daughter of Darkness*, proved enthralling. The series follows Auris, a human girl navigating a magical realm she never knew existed, unravelling her identity and her world's secrets. Amidst lost memories and newfound love, justice prevails. I found myself engrossed in these books whenever time allowed. Whether a fan of fantasy or not, this series promises a captivating journey. REVIEWER: Debbie.

Reader's Guides Brochures



Have you read most of your favourite author's works? Do you gravitate towards gripping crime tales, or do you prefer the charm of humour, fantasy, or historical fiction? At the Ōtaki library, our *Reader's Guides* span a broad spectrum of genres, from acclaimed literary works to captivating women's fiction. Drop by and inquire about our reader's guides, or simply grab a pamphlet from the front desk to uncover a realm of fresh authors and embark on thrilling adventures across diverse genres.

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



Services

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ŌTAKI HERITAGE

Te Whare Pouhere Taonga o Ōtaki

ŌTAKI IN THE NEWS ~ 1905

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

January 10

A circus is said to have taken £120 in Otaki last Friday, showing that money is plentiful in that district.

January 28

The Premier has promised a deputation of Otaki natives that a Royal Commission will be set up to consider not only the Porirua Trust but all other native school reserves in the colony. The commission will probably be appointed in a few days.

January 28

During the past year the Otaki River has altered its course to a remarkable extent at its mouth, and this has caused a complete change in the aspect of the beach, states the Otaki Mail. It is not so very long ago that the old City of Auckland wreck lay on the Otaki side of the river, but the river has swept further and further northwards, until it is now running over the old site of the Rangiora accommodation house. It is marvellous the change that the river has made. A few years ago, the tendency of the river seemed to be to work further southwards all the time, but it now flows in an entirely opposite direction. The beach near the mouth of the river, as is usually the case, is very rough at present and huge masses of stones have been piled up where once the beach was nice and smooth.

March 28

The Otaki Hospital is just now fairly full.

There are nine men patients, and five in the women's ward, besides five in the consumptives' shelters, making in all nineteen patients.

May 2

We learn that Mr. Byron Brown, of Otaki, will contest the Otaki seat at the next general election as an Independent Liberal and No-License candidate. Mr. Brown is so far opposed to the Government that he will be prepared, we understand, to vote against the present Government on any substantive motion of want of confidence. The coming candidate is a resident of the district, where, among other things, he is managing director of Byron Brown, Ltd., Chairman of Directors of the Otaki Manakau Co-operative Dairy Co., Ltd., and Captain of the Otaki Rifle Club.

May 15

At the opening of the new two-storey brick Post Office at Otaki on Wednesday last Sir Joseph Ward gave some particulars of the early mail service on this coast. Sir Joseph said no institution gathered around it more interest than a post office, and in Otaki this was particularly the case, the history of its post office extending back for a period of 50 years. In the report of the Post Office Department for the year 1860, it was stated that mails, which were carried by the through mail service between Wellington and Wanganui, were despatched from Wellington on Mondays at 2 p.m., arriving at Otaki the following morning; the return mail leaving Otaki on Friday afternoons and reaching Wellington at 11 a.m. next day. At the present day, two mails were received from, and three mails despatched to Wellington daily, the journey occupying two and a half to four hours. Local tradition had it that a Mr M. H. Clark, shepherd on the Mission Station then, existing at Otaki, was postmaster in 1854, the post office being situated on the Mission grounds. A little later Mr R. Eager is said to have had charge of the post office in a store near where Mr Skinner's shop now is, and he

subsequently offered to run the mail between Wellington and Taranaki, but the outbreak of the native war at Taranaki in March, 1860, put a stop to the service. About the year 1860 (at which time the office was conducted in a room of the Telegraph Hotel) Mr Henry Eagar, uncle of Mr Henry Eagar, clerk of the local Road Board, carried the mail from Wellington to Foxton, the Maoris carrying it onward to New Plymouth. This was a horseback service, the contractor for which was Mr Eagar, father of Mr H. F. Eagar, of Otaki. Coaches commenced to run in 1864, and Messrs Cobb and Co's. coaches ran in 1866. Among the first settlers to venture into the country north of Wellington was Mr Thomas Bevan, senr., of Manakau. Otaki was then a native pah, and Porirua a military outpost. The rough-wooded country round Paekakariki, Ngahauranga, and Pahautanui, was at this time an important Maori stronghold. It will be remembered by old residents that in those days a native called "Humpy Tommy" used to carry letters on horseback along the coast at intervals, to the military stations further north. Later on, when friendly relations were established with the natives, Europeans carried the mail regularly, among the earliest contractors being Mr John Duncan, of Wanganui, who carried letters on foot.

The departmental records show that Mr Frederick Martin was appointed postmaster at Otaki on the 1st April, 1866. On the 1st February, 1870, Mr George Innes, who for many years afterwards filled the position of postmaster at Palmerston North, was made postmaster at Otaki, and was also given charge of the telegraph office which was opened about that date.

The following successively acted as postmaster and telegraphist:—Mr I. G. Price, now postmaster at the Hutt, from the 1st September, 1875; Mr H. B. Bridge, from the 21st May, 1879; Mr F. T. Cowper, from the 1st July, 1879, on which date the

money order office and savings bank was opened. On the 1st October, 1879, Mr T. Buckley, now electrician to the department, took charge of the office, being succeeded by Mr J. Brown on the 1st February, 1882. Mr A. H. Rollo, who is a resident of Otaki, took up the appointment on the 24th November, 1864, and acted until the 21st May, 1894, when Mr A. Clark, now postmaster at Lawrence, entered upon the duties. Mr Clark was succeeded by Mr J. Tait, now postmaster at Coromandel, on the 1st June, 1879; the present postmaster, Mr J. G. Poynter succeeding him on the 1st November, 1903.

May 20

The Chinese appear to be fully aware of the peculiar adaptability of the Otaki soil for market gardening purposes. There is already a very considerable area of land, mostly in the vicinity of the Railway Station, in cultivation by the Chinese, but in the near future this area will probably be more than doubled. We mentioned a few days ago that Mr Utiku Hapeta's property, comprising 13 acres, had been leased to a gang of Chinamen for market gardening, and we now hear that Mr C. Bell has sub-leased the beautiful flat land to the north-east of the Mangapouri Stream, between the Central Hotel and the Otaki Hospital, to another syndicate of Celestials for the same purpose. These Chinese pay a handsome rental for the land, so there must be money in market gardening.

June 1

Special attention is drawn in another column to the arrangements made by the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company for the conveyance of passengers to the Otaki races. No passengers will be carried to or from Otaki by the mail trains on Saturday, 3rd, or Monday, 5th June, but special trains will leave Wellington at 7.0 a.m. and 8.20 a.m. on Saturday, and at 7.0 a.m. on Monday for the conveyance of visitors going to the races.

Ōtaki Kids Market closed for winter

The Ōtaki Kids Market (21 April, 2024) recently concluded with resounding success, drawing over 83 children from across the Kāpiti Coast and Horowhenua regions, as well as participants from Lower Hutt, Tawa, Porirua, Ashurst, Dannevirke, and even as far as Nelson. The Kids Market provides a platform for young entrepreneurs to showcase their creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Among the highlights of the event were the joint winners of the Best Kids Stall award (Judged by the Mayor of Kāpiti): Isabel Burchell from Pukerua Bay with her stall Isabel Makes; and Tehya and Skylar Nightingale, from the Kapiti Coast with their stall Beachy.co. These young entrepreneurs impressed the judge and attendees alike with their exceptional products, presentation and customer service.

“What a great day today at the Ōtaki Kids Market. It was so inspiring to chat with all of the stall holders who work so hard to create and source products. One of the wonderful elements is how families and generations work together.” says Janet Holborow, Mayor of Kāpiti

Additionally, Tal Sloman (Paraparaumu) with his stall Tal's 3D Prints received an award for the second time, further highlighting the quality and innovation present at the market.

Young face-painter, Hester from Porirua joined the market for the first time and excelled with delightful creations.

Three students from Ōtaki College ManukuraGPS group helped with set up and pack down.



above: Ōtaki Kids Market participants, April 2024

Freddy and Pierre, who form the band The Pretty Boys, entertained us all day with music.

Three young people, Lauren, Hester and Caira promoted the Kids Market on Wednesday live on Coast Access Radio

The market also saw a special appearance by local Member of Parliament, Tim

Costley, and his family, adding to the excitement and community-spirit of the event.

“We are thrilled with the overwhelming success of this year's Ōtaki Kids Market,” said Chrissy Anderson, General Manager. “It's truly inspiring to see so many young minds coming together to showcase

their talents and entrepreneurial spirit.”

The Ōtaki Kids Market continues to be a beacon of creativity and innovation for young entrepreneurs in the region and beyond, providing a platform for them to learn, grow, and succeed.

text and image supplied

Media Muse

By Manakau's Tom Frewen

The doomed ship sailed on, sinking ever lower in the water, waves breaking against the deserted bridge; no one at the wheel, the captain locked in her cabin and refusing to come out; the crew on the point of mutiny, deckchairs left to rearrange themselves.

The light at the end of the tunnel flickered and went out. Under cover of darkness, the elephant in the middle of the room escaped, racing back down the tunnel towards the light at the other end.

Her escape from the middle of the room created a vacancy for a political dinosaur, a Prebosaurus, long thought to be extinct.

Taking its name from an eighties geezer named Richard Prebble, the Preboaurus writes a weekly column in the Australian-owned newspaper, the *NZ Herald*, in which he regurgitates the economic theories and so-called market rules that he and his fellow dinosaurs promoted in the 1980s.

In a recent column, Prebbo asked: "Why not govern the country like it is a company?"

Answer: "It already is. That's the problem."

Nicknamed "Mad Dog Prebble" from the way cartoonists lampooned his zeal for reform as a minister in David Lange's Fourth Labour Government, Prebbo can be forgiven for being a bit out of touch. But when he says the country should be run like a company, which one is he thinking of? Mainzeal?

"The most untrusted profession is politicians," he writes. "Business leaders are more trusted. Just 17 per cent of the electorate trust politicians while 28 per cent trust business leaders."

He's quoting a poll conducted by the local branch of Ipsos, a self-described global leader in market research. Ironically, the poll ranks pollsters level-pegging with politicians on 17 per cent. Below them in bottom place are advertising executives on 14 per cent.

Flipped around, the poll shows that a

whopping (dread word!) 83 per cent of respondents don't trust politicians and 72 per cent don't trust business leaders, whoever they may be.

Regardless of these wobbly statistical foundations, the Prebster believes the Prime Minister (Christopher Luxon the last time I checked) should make more of his experience as the chief executive officer (CEO) of Air New Zealand.

"The Prime Minister should emphasise his business experience," he writes. "Speak to us as if we are shareholders and to the press gallery as if they are analysts."

"A 100-day 36-point plan is the way a CEO would focus a company on what is important. If you do not know where you are going you end up going in circles," says Prebbo.

Which, of course, is exactly what happens now. The National Party and Labour take turns at being the government. It's like watching a merry-go-round; the same issues, different faces, round and round, only much faster this time as National takes just three months to undo almost all the things that Labour put in place over six years.

In the late 1980s, Prebble was responsible, as the Minister for State-owned Enterprises, for fronting Treasury's plan to have the state's television company run on a purely commercial basis to make a profit off advertising revenue. The ultimate goal was privatisation which, it was hoped at the time, would bring in about a billion dollars.

The justification — that New Zealand could not afford a publicly funded non-commercial television broadcaster like the BBC — was upheld by both Labour and National administrations for 30 years. Only now has it become obvious that it's the multiple commercial television channels that the country cannot afford.

Despite taxpayer funding of about \$300 million going into the broadcasting sector,

the new National administration has yet to take responsibility for this expenditure. With no broadcasting portfolio, its Communications and Media Minister, Melissa Lee, who floundered around in a policy vacuum waiting for her advisers in the Treasury, the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and the Ministry for Culture and Heritage to tell her what to think and say.

Meanwhile, the CEOs continue to run their own shows. Radio New Zealand's Paul Thompson shared his thinking in a submission on the Fair Digital News Bargaining Bill to Parliament's Economic Development, Science and Innovation Select Committee.

"Well look," he told the committee, "the world's in a really difficult volatile situation. The benign couple of decades has ended and geopolitically we're this vulnerable, open English-speaking trading nation at the edge of the world and global platforms. Global content is pervasive and that's wonderful, right? That's great for us."

But there were dark clouds on the horizon. "There are state actors," he said, probably referring to China, "who are actively moving into the Pacific . . . One way we can keep ourselves strong and sovereign and independent as a robust, diverse, sustainable business media sector."

Salvation lay in "having a strong journalism for New Zealanders to connect and inform our nation, cover all our ethnic communities, cover all our regions, cover all the big issues, is fundamental to our health as a nation."

The stakes were really, really high, he said. "But if we don't tell and own our stories, and if New Zealanders don't have a range of media to come to — public, private, community, commercial print, digital radio, tv — if they don't have a range and a choice, they will get the information from somewhere else and it will break our democracy."

While RNZ's CEO talked up the importance of news media in maintaining a free and informed society, TVNZ's CEO echoed his sentiments while at the same time shutting

down the very programmes that underpinned television's role as the Fourth Estate's most powerful medium.

Telling Australian-owned NewstalkZB's Heather du Plessis Allan that TVNZ spent \$40 million a year on news and current affairs, Jodi O'Donnell said: "So we absolutely believe in the future of news and current affairs, but we have a situation right now that our operating model is more expensive than the revenue that we are making, and we have to make some really tough decisions."

Did they include cutting the 6pm bulletin down to 30 minutes?

"No, we didn't think about that."

"Why [not]?"

"We looked at everything. But what we see with the 6:00pm and the one-hour news bulletin is it's an incredibly profitable hour."

"So you are still making money on the 6:00pm bulletin?"

"We are still making on the money on the 6:00pm bulletin, yeah."

But that was not that case, apparently, with Fair Go and Sunday, two of TVNZ's highest rating programmes, both now for the chop.

"What about making TVOne a non-commercial channel?"

"That's a question for the shareholder. I can't answer that question."

"Well, what would you say to them [the shareholders]?"

"Well, at the moment, we are governed by the TVNZ Act and we are a commercial business, and that's what we get on and do."

"Could TVNZ be sold?"

"Again, that's a question for the shareholder."

There are actually two shareholders, Melissa Lee's replacement Paul Goldsmith and the ACT Party's leader, David Seymour who inherit the same policy vacuum, awaiting their riding instructions from Treasury, MBIE and the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

So, no, Mr Prebble. Even when it looks like the country is being run like a company, the real power lies with elected politicians, like yourself back in the day.

KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETINGS IN MAY 2024

Date	Topic	Time	Location
Thursday, 2 May 2024	Public Hearing of Long-Term Plan 2024-28 Submissions and Annual Licensing Fees Bylaw Submissions	9:30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 7 May 2024	Tāwhaitirangi o Kāhori	9:30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 7 May 2024	Public Hearing of Long-Term Plan 2024-28 Submissions and Annual Licensing Fees Bylaw Submissions	2:30pm	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 7 May 2024	Paraparaumu Community Board Meeting	6:30pm	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday, 9 May 2024	Social Sustainability Subcommittee Meeting	9:30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday, 9 May 2024	Council Meeting	1:30pm	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday, 14 May 2024	Climate and Environment Subcommittee Meeting	9:30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday, 14 May 2024	Raumarua Community Board Meeting	7:00pm	Tū Kōwhiri & Kōwhiri, 200 Raumarua Road, Raumarua Beach
Thursday, 16 May 2024	Strategy, Operations and Finance Committee Meeting	9:30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday, 16 May 2024	Meeting: Long-Term Plan 2024-28 Submissions Meeting	1:30pm	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday, 21 May 2024	Meeting: Representation Review 2024 - Initial Representation Proposal Options	1:30pm	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday, 21 May 2024	Oranui Community Board Meeting	7:00pm	Lighthouse Avenue (opposite Beach Memorial Hall), Oranui
Thursday, 21 May 2024	Wakapuaka Community Board Meeting	7:00pm	Wakapuaka Community Centre, Urua Street
Thursday, 23 May 2024	Risk and Resilience Committee Meeting	9:30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday, 23 May 2024	Additional Council Meeting	1:30pm	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday, 30 May 2024	Council Meeting	9:30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday, 30 May 2024	Meeting: Understanding Insects Laying on the Public Coast	1:30pm	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu

Attendance at Meetings

- Cancellation** - Meetings may be cancelled for a variety of reasons. Not all cancellations can be advertised. To confirm whether a meeting is occurring, refer to our website or ring the Manager Democracy Services on (04) 296 4700 or toll free on 0800 486 486.
- Venue** - Please note that all meetings will be held in the Council Chambers, Civic Administration Building, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu, unless otherwise specified.
- Public Forum** - a 30-minute session may be held before every Council and Strategy, Operations and Finance committee meeting (9.00 am – 9.30 am) if requests to speak have been received. During public forum attendees can speak on any topic. Bookings are essential. Please book ahead with the Democracy Services Team – an online booking form can be found on our website.
- Public Speaking Time** - Under Council's Standing Orders, members of the public may request to **speak on any items relating to agenda items**. If you wish to request to speak, **please book ahead** with the Democracy Services team.
- Live-streaming**: Council and Committee meetings are live-streamed.
- Agendas** are available two days before the meeting at:
 - Our website www.kapiticoast.govt.nz;
 - Council's Libraries and Service Centres.

Darren Edwards
Chief Executive

Kapiti Coast DISTRICT COUNCIL
Ma Hiri Whakamuri, Ka Tiri Whakamua

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St John Health Shuttle	0800 589 630	Sparky Tom Ltd	027 699 3743
Stroke Support	021 962 366	Concrete Work	
Womens Health	06 364 6367	Bevan Concrete	0800 427522
Helplines		Concrete Doctors	06 364 8634
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Depression Helpline	0800 111 757	Rasmac Contractors	0274 443 041
Healthline	0800 611 116	Estate Agents	
Lifeline	0800 543 354	Harcourts	06 364 5284
Mental Health Crisis	0800 653 357	Kelly & Co	06 364 0404
Samaritans	0800 727 666	Professionals	06 364 7720
Victim Support	0800 842 846	Property Brokers	06 364 8350
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Bridge	021 885 514	Kāpiti Coast Funeral	04 298 5168
Budgeting	06 364 6579	Waikanae Funeral	04 293 6844
Citizens Advice	06 364 8664	Funeral Celebrant	
Cobwebs	021 160 2710	Annie Christie	06 364 0042
Community Club	06 364 8754	Insurance	
Community Patrol	027 230 8836	Inpro	06 364 6123
Energise Ōtaki	027 4443015	Nurseries	
Foodbank	06 364 0051	Strik's 100&1	06 364 7084
Friends of the Ōtaki River	06 364 8918	Talisman	06 364 5893
Genealogy	06 364 7263	Te Horo Garden Centre	06 364 2142
Historical Society	06 364 6543	Watsons Garden Centre	06 364 8758
Let's Sing	06 364 8731	Kāpiti Coast District Council	
Mainly Music	06 364 7099	General Inquiries	06 364 9301
MenzShed	06 364 8303	Toll Free	0800 486 486
Museum	06 364 6886	Ōtaki Library	06 364 9317
Neighbourhood Support	06 366 0574	Ōtaki Swimming Pool	06 364 5542
Ōtaki Players	06 364 6491	Lawyer	
Poetry in Ōtaki (PIO)	021 977 834	Simco Lawyers	06 364 7285
Pottery	06 364 8053	Hobson Mills Law	06 364 7190
Rotary	06 927 9010	Wakefields Lawyers	04 970 3600
TRSA	06 364 6221	Locksmith	
imebank	06 362 6313	Ōtaki Locksmith	021 073 5955
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Marriage celebrants		TechMan	022 315 7018
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tel: 06 364 6838
email: rangiatea.church@xtra.co.nz

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Levin Ngātokowaru Marae
580 Hokio Beach Road
Hokio
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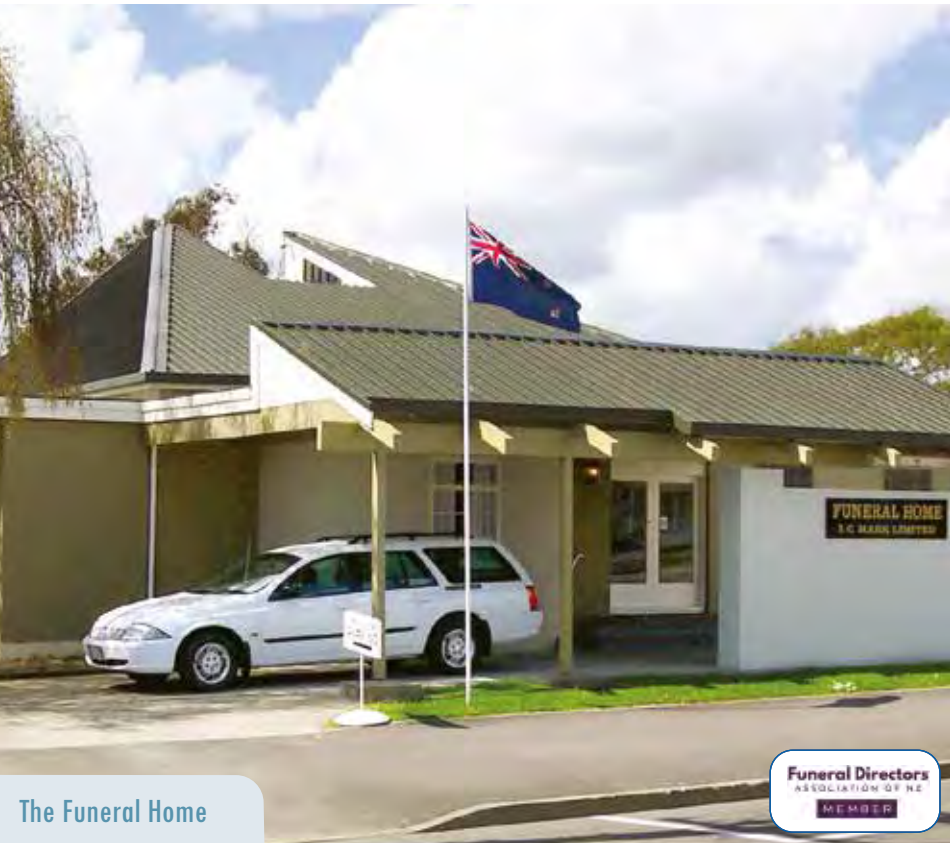
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ŌSLSC: end-of-season awards



BY SHELLY WARWICK

With another successful season over for the Ōtaki Surf Lifesaving Club it was time to celebrate the achievements and the volunteers at this year's prizegiving. Scooping the award for Lifeguard of the year was Shea Lenaghan who also received the award for most patrol hours for the season. Shea was Patrol Captain for the Regional guard over the summer, leading the team through a season that was busy with lots of beach goers, rescues and rips. Despite many rescues, including a mass rescue, there was no loss of life thanks to both the regional lifeguard team and the many volunteers who staff the club in the weekends. Volunteers like Carrie Yaxley, with husband Marty and daughter Elliot, have run the Nippers (junior surf) program for many years now.

The awards were as follows:

Lifeguard of the Year and Most Patrol Hours – Shea Lenaghan

Volunteer of the Year – Carrie Yaxley
 Progress Award – Jane Lenaghan
 U16 Yop Lifeguard – Mia King
 U19 Top Lifeguard – Ella Gilpin
 Patrol Support Award – Elliot Yaxley
 Our Nippers also received awards

Although summer is over, our lifeguards have started their Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) training and will train and qualify new drivers and crewpersons over the winter, ready for next summer. Our lifeguards, adults and juniors will train for most of the year at the pool to keep in shape for the summer when they are required at the beach again. Well done to all the award winners, but equally thank you to all the families and kids who dedicate their time to the surf club and for the hours and weekends that are given to keep our beach safe.

Five bands at Memorial Gardens in May

Five live bands/artists will perform at the Memorial Gardens, Ōtaki, for a day of free community live music for Aotearoa New Zealand's May Music Month.

Get ready for an unforgettable day of live music, taking place on Saturday 18 May 2024 in the Memorial Gardens, from 11am to 5pm. Part of New Zealand's May Music Month Celebrations. This is a free community event with a spectacular line up!

- 11:00pm: Maddy Bean
- 12:00pm: Loaded Brasso
- 1:30pm: Brand New Secondhand
- 2:45pm: Uprising
- 4:00pm: Sparkle

Later in the evening the NZ's May Music Month celebrations will continue at The Tele. The Tele event is a ticketed event \$10. Doors open at 7pm. Bands run 8pm to close.

The Ōtaki event, organised by Music Festivals & Events NZ, is a celebration among a series of seven events held throughout NZ's May Music Month. Event organiser Chris Craddock expressed enthusiasm, emphasising the significance of providing free, live-music community events featuring performances by professional-calibre musicians.

There will be a free children's bouncy castle for this event and koha sausage sizzle.

Generous support from One Foundation has made this event possible.

Wet weather venue: RSA, 9 Raukawa Street, Ōtaki.

below: five-piece, all-woman band Sparkle



text + image supplied



KEAG award Graham Winterburn

BY SHELLY WARWICK

The Kāpiti Equestrian Advocacy Group (KEAG) recently recognised Graham Winterburn, from the Greater Wellington Regional Council's Ōtaki depot, with an award for his continued support of the horse-riding community in Kāpiti.

"Graham is just an all round great person who has always worked with us to enable horse riders to make the most of our beautiful river tracks and have the same

access as other users," said Shelly Warwick, chair of KEAG. "The whole team at the Ōtaki depot are great. We are very lucky to have Graham and his team who go above and beyond to help the community."

The award's inscription reads: Graham Winterburn. In recognition of your enduring support for the Kāpiti horse-riding community. Thank you. Kāpiti Equestrian Advocacy Group.



above: Mayor Janet Holborow, KEAG member Shelly Warwick, Graham Winterburn, KEAG member Ruth Halliday and GWRC's Hamish Fenwick

Basketball

BY PAXMAN TAURIMA

The Tararua Rangers Basketball Club took four teams to the annual Hoopnatic Junior Showcase Basketball tournament in Whanganui. Teams that were represented were the U13 boys, U15 boys, U17 boys, and a U15 girls team. All the teams were very competitive, with the best result being 3rd place for the U15 boys. The U13 boys team finished 4th in pool play; the U17 boys finished 3rd in their pool play; and our U15 girls finished in a 3-way tie for 2nd, but missed out on a semi-final place due to a count back. The next campaign for the Tararua Rangers will be the Hoopnatic Classic in Tauranga later in the year. Teams we will be taking along will include boys and girls teams from 12 years up to adults grades, so keep an eye on our social media for future trial or training dates:

www.facebook.com/tararuabball



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