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Te Mēra o Ōtaki

April 2026



Cliftons' collection wows crowds at hall fundraiser

BY NIKKI PAPATSOUMAS



Joy and Rod Clifton in front of an early 1960s BMC Nuffield Universal Three.

image: Tracey Hall

The latest fundraising effort for the Te Horo Hall Committee gave locals a chance to take a rare glimpse of some meticulously maintained memorabilia.

On Sunday 29 March, Rod and Joy Clifton, of Rod Clifton Motors, generously showcased hundreds of vintage items, including around 400 tractors, cars, hay grapples, ploughs, oil cans, funnels, bedpans, wrenches and scales. All items came from the couple's personal collection.

The open day was the latest fundraising effort for the Te Horo Hall committee who are working to raise the money needed to have the exterior of the building reclad.

Te Horo Hall Chair Bryan Hall said he estimated more than 500 people attended.

"I was at the gate from 9.30am until 12.30pm and we had a constant flow of people.

"The number of families – it was really cool to see parents bringing their children through and they were having the best time. It was a great community event.

"It was a really great day, I take my hat off

to Rod and Joy who went to a lot of effort to present his vintage collection and memorabilia.

"I thought it was a real tribute to Rod and what he has put together there and his standing in the community."

Alongside Bryan, the 11 members of the Te Horo Hall Committee helped serve tea and coffee and chaperoned the event.

Bryan says there is still a long way to go to see the hall's exterior reclad, which is the second phase of the hall's restoration project.

The first phase saw funds raised for earthquake strengthening of the hall, installation of a brand new kitchen and new-interior painting.

Minor maintenance work has also been carried out inside, including resurfacing and restoring the hall's floors. The switchboard has been upgraded, too, and is now solar compatible.

Bryan says eventually the committee would love to see double bi-fold doors installed into the south end of the hall, which would allow indoor-outdoor flow.

"We will be running ongoing fundraising for the next 18 months to two years. We try to make them community-based events so people can enjoy the event and it's not just about the fundraising.

Bryan says there are plans for two quiz nights in June, a mid-year disco and a garden market later in the year.

Bryan says he would like to see the hall restored as he believes it is important that all communities have something to focus around.

"If you have something like the community hall there and you can have it available... you create a facility to build community resilience.

"We need to facilitate and provide these things to keep the community together, by making the hall the hub.

"I would hope we will get the hall to a position in a couple of years to make it self funding...and a legacy for future generations in Te Horo.

"We are keeping busy."



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Tim Costley MP for Ōtaki

Contact details for our offices in Levin and Paraparaumu are below.

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I look forward to meeting with you soon.

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Be fire safe this winter



Following a number of recent house fires in the area, Ōtaki's volunteer fire chief is asking the community to ensure home fire safety is top of mind.

Chief Fire Officer Ian King says the brigade has seen a number of call outs over the past few weeks where the cause has been unattended cooking.

A large house fire last month started after cooking was left unattended. The family had working smoke alarms, which alerted them to the fire, however their home was sadly lost.

"This is a timely reminder that unattended cooking is the leading cause of house fires in New Zealand," says Ian.

"Fire is fast. Once a fire starts it can be deadly within three minutes.

"If you need to walk away from your cooking for any reason, no matter how briefly, make sure you turn the stove off until you get back."

With winter just around the corner, Ian is also reminding the community to ensure they have working smoke alarms and a

three-step escape plan in place.

"Daylight Saving ends on Sunday April 5. This is a great time to check all your smoke alarms are in working order.

"Push the button on each of your smoke alarms. If they beep you know they're working, and if they don't, it's time to replace them immediately.

"You should have smoke alarms in every bedroom, living area and hallway."

Ian says that in rental accommodation, landlords must provide working smoke alarms within three metres of every bedroom and on every level of the house.

It is tenants' responsibility to maintain them and replace the batteries when needed.

"Working smoke alarms are the first step in your three-step escape plan. Make sure your family also has two ways out of the house and a safe meeting place."

Ian says there are other simple things you can do around the home to keep your whānau safe ahead of the colder months.

"Keep drying clothing, curtains, bedding and anything flammable at least a metre away from the heater.

"In winter more people will be using dryers to dry clothes and bedding. A clean dryer avoids a fire, so remember to clean the lint filter before each use.

"Old or damaged electric blankets can be a hazard, so you should test your electric blanket at the start of winter.

"Electric blankets are for heating beds before you get in, not for sleeping with, so remember to turn your electric blanket off before you get into bed."

The community can visit www.fireandemergency.nz/home-fire-safety/ for more advice on ways to ensure their home is safe.

Kite Festival a soaring success

BY NIKKI PAPATSOUMAS



A shark takes flight from Otaki Beach last month.

image: Tracey Hall

Crowds turned out to the annual Ōtaki Kite Festival in the thousands once again this year, hoping to catch a glimpse of colourful kites on display.

The two day festival was held this year on 14 and 15 March. As well as kite displays there were also market stalls, food, activities, and performances for festival goers to enjoy.

Project Director Kirsty Doyle says as is the same with previous years, the event once again delivered a "good community feeling".

She said the festival organisers were once again blown away by the community's support for the event.

She says highlights from this year's festival included the returning Taiko Drummers and the Phoenix Kite Collective, who traveled from Australia to bring their stunt flying routine to the Kapiti Coast.

"There are four of them and they are flying their kites to music, that was very cool and was quite a highlight."

Despite a wet start to the event on Saturday, the weather cleared, making for perfect flying conditions on Sunday.

"Winds were variable on Saturday, it was a bit too blustery. Surprisingly the really big winds don't do the kites any favours.

"But Sunday was just spectacular, the winds were amazing."

Kirsty says she would like to extend a huge thank you to the 80 volunteers who helped over the weekend.

"There were so many highlights from the weekend it's hard to single out one thing. People really enjoy it, and the Ōtaki community loves it."

If you'd like to volunteer to help with next year's Kite Festival, email : otakikitefestival@gmail.com



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Ōtaki Mail is proud to be Ōtaki's oldest locally produced community newspaper. Published monthly and delivered to every home in Ōtaki and Te Horo, and to collection points in Manakau and Waikanae, at the beginning of the month.

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You can also find the Ōtaki Mail online : www.otakimail.co.nz

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If you don't receive your paper by the middle of the month, please contact us by phoning: 027 254 2564



2026

AGM and Election of Trustees Notice

Pukehou 5L 1A Ahu Whenua Trust

Taipua-Te Hiwi Whānau Trust

VENUE: Te Kata a Raukawa – Wharekai

DATE: Saturday 2 May 2026

TIME: 10:00am

AGENDA

1. Karakia
2. Apologies
3. Election of Trustees
4. Chairs Report
5. Treasurer Report
6. General Business
7. Any Other Business

Fundraising for large-scale mural that will transform township

BY NIKKI PAPATSOUMAS



Mural artist Theo Arraj in front of his original mural on the corner of Matene and Main Streets. *image supplied*

The artist behind some of Ōtaki's iconic street art is asking the community for its support in bringing a new mural to life in the township.

Mural artist Theo Arraj plans to create a new large-scale mural on the corner of

Matene and Main Streets.

Theo's the artist behind the current mural in the same space, which was completed in 2021. The new art, which will span 64 metres squared, would replace this.

Theo intends to start the project in November.

However, with the rising cost of living he is reaching out for public support to help make this project a reality through a Givealittle fundraiser. Donations will cover materials, equipment and associated costs such as fuel.

"I would love to bring something fresh and new to this space," he says.

"I have developed a lot more as an artist, so my skills and my vision and the way I translate that, and the stories I tell, have developed a lot since then."

Locals would likely have seen much of Theo's street art across the Kāpiti Coast. He has been a street artist for more than two decades and here in Ōtaki he most recently completed a mural at the Surf Lifesaving Club.

"I like exploring themes of animism. My portraits are representative of personifications of some of our native fauna. I often get asked to paint native flora and fauna, I like to blend the two together.

"I would like to follow a similar theme for the new artwork, but I have a different idea in mind and it will cover the entire wall and be one cohesive piece."

Theo says murals help spark conversation, interest, and evoke culture and inspiration in the community.

"Public art also increases foot traffic and helps local businesses. People crave it, for the most part people like to see something artistic on a wall as opposed to just a blank wall."

Anyone who would like to donate can head to www.murals.nz for a link to the Givealittle page.

News in brief

Daylight Saving ends

Sunday 5 April clocks will go back an hour. Some clocks and devices will adjust the time automatically, while others will need you to manually change the time. It is also a great time to check your smoke alarms are in good working order, and in the right places. Press the button and if it sounds, you are good to go. If they don't beep they need to be replaced straight away. Make sure you have working smoke alarms in every bedroom, living room and hallway

ANZAC Day services

The community is invited to honour the ANZAC spirit on Saturday 25 April as we remember all who have served New Zealand and Australia. The Ōtaki RSA Dawn Service will take place at 6am. Fall in at 5.45am at Ōtaki RSA and join the march to Ōtaki War Memorial and Cenotaph for a 6am service. Later that day the Ōtaki RSA Sunset Retreat will take place at 5pm, at the Ōtaki Service Cemetery on Anzac Road. Attendees are asked to arrive at 4.45pm for a 5pm service.

Ōtaki Kids Market

Young entrepreneurs from across the region will showcase their creativity and business skills at the Ōtaki Kids Market on Sunday 19 April, from 10am to 2pm, on the Main Highway, Ōtaki.

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Te Horo Talk

BY VIVIENNE BAILEY



Salt fired Pottery Workshops at the Hautere Kiln

Situated amongst the lavender at Te Horo's Lavender Creek Farm, Settlement Road, Hautere Kiln is a community resource built by The Kilns at Te Horo to replicate the salt firings of renowned potter, Mirek Smisek's bee-hive kilns.

Sixteen members of Otaki Pottery Club recently took part in a month-long series of salt fired workshops at the Hautere kilns, an initiative organised by the Kilns at Te Horo, and led by trustee, Frederick Church. The group spent several weeks preparing their work, learning how to decorate pots for the firing as well as the underlying science of what happens at 1300 degrees Celsius. This was followed by a half day to load, a 10-hour day to fire and a final day to unload.

Buoyed and excited by the results of their labour, several potters were keen to participate in other workshops, "we've got the bug now."

Frederick says it's rewarding to share the workshops' special experience with local potters.

"It takes time and patience to fire this kiln, watching the temperature, controlling the flames and being part of the whole process," he explains. "We got some fantastic outcomes, and the food was amazing. Potters make great food as well as great pots."

This was the second firing in three weeks

by Otaki Pottery Club members. Anyone interested in joining a firing can contact thekilnsattehoro@gmail.com

Local farm walks

Farm walks or tours appear to be popular throughout the country, particularly in the rough rugged countryside of Central Otago. Keeping up with this trend and to engage the community, the Te Horo Hall fundraising committee have continued their 2025 series of local farm walks.

A key feature of the 2026 series is the Parahamuti Wetlands near Te Horo Beach, a significant site where work is being undertaken to restore the land's environment, heritage and mana. This farm walk starts at 183 Te Horo Beach Road, Sunday 19 April.

Other upcoming walks include Mansells Farm, Sunday 5 April (Easter Sunday), meet at Woolshed, 680 Otaki Gorge Road, 9.30am registration, and Sunday 12 April 307 Te Hapua Road, Te Horo where you'll encounter coastal and wetland vistas.

Walks are from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Entry is \$15, children free. Funds raised from the farm walks go towards the Te Horo Hall restoration project.

Drinks and Nibbles

Te Horo's monthly community get together, Friday 3 April (Good Friday) 5.30pm at Te Horo Hall. Bring a plate of nibbles to share and something to drink. Everyone welcome.



image: Vivienne Bailey

Frederick Church prepares to load the Hautere Kiln, a salt kiln located at Lavender Creek Farm, Te Horo.

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Summer's over for Surf Lifesaving patrol

BY ŌTAKI SURF LIFESAVING CLUB



image supplied

Junior surf members at last month's training session.

The summer patrol season has concluded for the Ōtaki Surf Lifesaving Club, with the final patrol taking place during the weekend of the Ōtaki Kite Festival.

Volunteer lifeguards spent the summer providing patrols at Ōtaki Beach, contributing a total of 3,766 hours of patrol time across the season.

During the summer, patrol members responded to 11 minor first-aid incidents, carried out four search events and assisted eight people to safety in the water.

Lifeguards also undertook nearly 200 preventative actions, involving close to 2,000 members of the public. These preventative actions included advising swimmers about hazards, identifying rip currents, and encouraging people to swim between the patrol flags.

The final patrol weekend also included a junior surf training session held ahead of the festival activities. A large number of the club's junior surf members took part in the session at Ōtaki Beach with some long-awaited good weather for the session.

With the patrol season now finished, club members will take part in the annual end-of-season club trip before turning their attention to winter training schedules in preparation for the next patrol season.

The club's prize-giving is set for 20 April.

People interested in volunteering or supporting the club can email otakisurfclub@gmail.com to find out more.



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The Garden in April

BY VIVIENNE BAILEY

Flower garden

Finish planting your spring flowering bulbs such as narcissus, anemones and ranunculus – April is also an ideal month for putting in tulips. Many bulbs planted out last season will be advanced in leaf growth.

Plant out cuttings of evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs.

Prune shrubs that have finished flowering.

Chrysanthemum plants should be fed and debudded to get the best flowers.

Dig up, divide and replant old or overcrowded perennials, such as Michaelmas daisies, phlox and heleniums. Plant the healthy, vigorous parts of the plant in soil that has been enriched with compost and fertiliser, and discard the older, exhausted parts.

Keep dead-heading any dahlias still in bloom to encourage flowering.

Keep dead-heading your roses as their autumn flush finishes and prepare rose beds for planting in the coming months. Once the beds have been dug over, composted and fertilised they can be left to settle for several weeks before planting.

Shift frost tender container plants into a sheltered spot.

Seedlings of many ornamentals can be planted now – hollyhock, Iceland poppies, primrose, larkspur, pansies, nemesias, Canterbury bells, gaillardias, polyanthus and snapdragon.

Sow seeds of summer-flowering sweet pea, calendula, cornflower, English daisy, lupin, stock, dianthus, lobelia, alyssum and viola.

Fruit and vegetable garden

Plant new fruit trees.

Keep harvesting pumpkins, kumi kumi and butternut – store in a cool, airy place for use throughout winter.

Continue earthing up your leeks and celery and give regular applications of liquid manure.

Late crops of potatoes and kūmara can be lifted.

Some passionfruit vines will still be bearing, although our inclement summer has slowed production – fruit can be picked as soon as it begins to turn purple.

Kiwifruit can be picked as soon as they soften and taken inside to ripen fully – the riper they are when picked, the sweeter the fruit.

Pick up the last of pears and apples, and store in a cool, dark place.

Rhubarb can be divided and replanted into compost-enriched soil.

Lawns

This is a good month for rejuvenating old lawns and sowing new ones – lawns sown this month should make good growth before winter.

Also apply lawn fertiliser to all existing lawns.

Second thoughts

April is a time of leaf gathering – those red and golden leaves from your deciduous trees are nature's way of ensuring good crops in the future, and should be spread around trees and shrubs, or turned into compost. Layers of autumn leaves and grass clippings make super-rich compost, particularly if you add a thin layer of animal manure between thicker layers of grass and leaves.

This is also a time to think of planting hedges – get them growing now, and they will be well established by next spring.



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Spring-flowering bulbs – plant now

BY VIVIENNE BAILEY



Autumn is the best time to plant and feed spring flowering bulbs. The widest (and best) selection of bulbs becomes available from mid-February through to May so now is a good time to get those bulbs in.

Choose a sunny spot – most spring bulbs need at least half a day of sun to flower happily. Loosen soil with a fork before planting and if you have heavy clay, dig sand or compost into the top layer of soil. As a rule, plant 2-3 times as deep as the height of the bulb. Water the ground thoroughly after planting.

Daffodils are the easiest and cheeriest bulbs to grow. The key to success with the bulbs is perfect drainage – if soil is too wet, particularly during summer when soil is warm, bulbs may rot. Daffs are not heavy feeders – mix bulb food into soil before planting and once again as leaves emerge from the soil. Avoid throwing it into the bottom of your hole as new roots can be killed by high concentrations of fertiliser.

The sweetly scented narcissus 'Erlcheer' with their double white flowers are long-time favourites, probably because they are the earliest to flower. I treasure the little 'Tete a Tete' mini daffodils. These cuties grow to 15cm tall, and each stem can carry up to three deep-yellow flowers in late winter – great in a big, wide terra-cotta bowl (if you're planting daffs in your lawn, don't plant in neat rows – turn your back, biff your bulbs in the air, and plant where they land. Bury 5-7 bulbs in each clump).

Plant freesia bulbs in autumn and they will flower profusely in spring. In colder locations they can struggle, so plant in containers. Modern varieties have

large, richly coloured flowers but the mild fragrance is not a patch on the small, old-fashioned, streaky cream freesias.

Early planting of anemones and ranunculi will produce winter flowers; later planting will give spring blooms. To encourage good germination and flower production, place your corms in the fridge prior to planting (four weeks for ranunculi and six for anemones). I find soaking the corms in tepid water (for a few hours or even overnight) before planting out helps break dormancy. Remember, anemones are planted pointy side down, ranunculi claws are also planted downwards (they look great planted in groups). Both these bulbs

are heavy feeders – use a general-purpose fertiliser once a month and keep well-watered.

Dutch irises are easy to grow provided they have fertile, well-drained soil and ixias enjoy a sunny spot in free-draining soil. The brightly coloured flowers can last up to two weeks in a vase so they're well worth considering if you have a picking garden.

When flowering of your spring bulbs has finished, snip off stems but wait until foliage dies down naturally before cutting back plants. At this time bulbs are busy storing their own food reserves so they can flower again the next season.

all images supplied

Stock clearance continues! We need to make room for new season's crop.



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Mayor's monthly report

BY MAYOR OF KĀPITI COAST JANET HOLBOROW



It was a brilliant afternoon at the Ōtaki Kite Festival when I visited on the Sunday alongside hundreds of people enjoying the afternoon sun.

The kites large and small were particularly stunning against the vibrant blue afternoon sun, and locals and visitors were enjoying hanging out on the beach, checking out the stalls and soaking up the atmosphere. It was such a perfect afternoon organisers and kite-fliers decided to leave the kites up well after the scheduled end time.

One of the kite-flyers, who takes part in many of these events across the country, reported that for many of the participants it's their favourite event on the kite-flying calendar.

I stopped in at the house truck café, which was built by students at Te Kura ā Iwi o Whakatupuranga Rua Mano. It's impossible to visit the community space without having an interesting discussion, and the deck is a perfect place from which to view the large kites.

Congratulations to the organisers and volunteers who make this free family event possible each year. It's not only a great day out, but it also helps local businesses and puts Ōtaki on the map as a destination.

Another group deserving of congratulations is the Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda. At their Annual General Meeting we heard about the enormous amount of work that's been going on to get the building ready to be used as a community facility.

The culmination of years of fundraising, organising and working on the ground, the past year has seen around 3000 hours of volunteer service as the project approaches the finishing line.

Particular thanks to Di Buchan who has spearheaded this dedicated group and always brought enthusiasm and positivity through the hard times as well as the good.

In early March, 90 friends and donors came together for an event to celebrate the progress that has been made. Deputy Mayor Martin Halliday attended the event and spoke of the wonderful achievement of the Friends in bringing the Rotunda back from the brink of decay and creating an exciting venue for community use.

Another incredible venue is the Civic Theatre. The renovated venue was opened for public use with a karakia on 20 March after the latest round of work, which includes strengthening, a new floor and foundations, new toilets and kitchen and extensive work on the interior. People passing will notice a new balustrade, which is in keeping with the art deco style and helps to define the entrance.

I look forward to enjoying more memorable performances in this historic and beautiful theatre. First up will be Māoriland Film Festival 2026 screenings, followed by the Ōtaki Players' next production.

Ōtaki is really a beating heart of creativity!

Accessing your KiwiSaver early

BY FLEUR HOBSON

There are a number of situations where people can withdraw funds from their KiwiSaver account earlier than when they retire. People may qualify for early withdrawal under the following circumstances.

1. Making a first home purchase. If you have been a KiwiSaver member for at least three years you can withdraw some of your savings to buy your first home.
2. When facing significant financial hardship. You can apply to withdraw some or all of your savings.
3. When you have a serious illness, are injured or become disabled and can no longer work you can apply to withdraw all your KiwiSaver savings.
4. If you have a life-shortening congenital condition. If you were born with a life-shortening condition you may be able to withdraw your savings before you turn 65.
5. If you move to Australia. When you have moved and are in Australia you can apply to transfer your KiwiSaver savings to an Australian complying superannuation fund.
6. If you emigrate to a country other than Australia. In that case you can apply to withdraw your KiwiSaver savings if you have lived outside New Zealand for at least one year.
7. If you and your partner are separating then any KiwiSaver funds will be classified as relationship property, and you can apply to withdraw them.

8. You may also be able to withdraw KiwiSaver savings early in the case of bankruptcy or student loans. Before lodging an application for early withdrawal it is important to do two things first.

One is to contact your lawyer for advice and assistance. This is particularly important if the reason relates to a circumstance where you need advice on other matters relating to the issue, such as will be the case for relationship property or making a home purchase, to list two examples.

It is also important to talk to your KiwiSaver provider before lodging the application for early withdrawal, and discuss the circumstances with them.

KiwiSaver provides access to the KiwiSaver Support Team on 0508 972 254, and they can provide advice.

The Inland Revenue Department also provides early withdrawal advice on its website, www.ird.govt.nz/kiwisaver/kiwisaver-individuals/getting-my-kiwisaver-funds-early.

It is worth checking this site for information about what applies and what you need to do in your particular circumstances. It is useful to read the information on this website before contacting your lawyer.

For expert advice, whatever your issue, contact Fleur, Susie or Freya at Hobson Mills Law, 06 364 7190, 282 Mill Road – opposite Farmlands.

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KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL
MEETINGS IN APRIL 2026

Tuesday, 14 April 2026	Briefing: Contemporary libraries: Paraparaumu	9.30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Thursday, 16 April 2026	Briefing: Taumata Arowai Water 101	1.30pm	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 21 April 2026	Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti	9.30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 21 April 2026	Paraparaumu Community Board Meeting	6.30pm	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 21 April 2026	Raumati Community Board Meeting	7.00pm	Te Raukura ki Kāpiti, 34a Raumati Road, Raumati Beach
Thursday 23 April 2026	Environment and Communities Committee	9.30am	Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu
Tuesday, 28 April 2026	Paekākāriki Community Board Meeting	7.00pm	St Peter's Hall, Beach Road, Paekākāriki

Attendance at Meetings

- (1) **Cancellation** - Meetings may be cancelled for a variety of reasons and at short notice. To confirm whether a meeting is occurring, please refer to our website.
- (2) **Public Speaking** - Council, committee and community board meetings are public meetings held under the Local Government Act 2002 and the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. These meetings are not 'public meetings' where members of the community and elected members can freely interact and discuss topics. They are meetings of Council, committees and community boards that are held in a public venue so, that in the spirit of transparency, the community can observe the meeting. Time is allocated at the start of each meeting for public speaking. Members of the community are usually allocated three to five minutes to share their thoughts with elected members. Please refer to the Council's website for information on how you can speak to or interact with elected members at these meetings.
- (3) **Live-streaming**: Council and Committee meetings are live-streamed.
- (4) **Agendas** are available two days before the meeting on our website (www.kapiticoast.govt.nz) and can be requested at our Libraries and Service Centres.

Darren Edwards
Chief Executive

Kāpiti Coast
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Māori Whakaminenga, Ka Tihi o Whakaminenga

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Arts

Thirteenth Māoriland Film Festival another success

BY NIKKI PAPATSOUMAS



image: Nikki Papatsoumas

The Māoriland Film Festival returned to Ōtaki last month – the thirteenth time the Indigenous film festival has been held.

The festival took place over five days from 24 to 28 March, and saw people gather from around the world to celebrate Indigenous cinema.

The event kicked off with a pōwhiri for manuwhiri and official guests. Together, guests gathered at the entrance to Raukawa Marae (pictured) before being welcomed inside.

Other festival highlights included Q and A sessions with film-makers and special performances.

Te Kohe Tuhaka provided the keynote speech for the event. He is an actor and producer who also works behind the camera championing Māori-led storytelling.

Taking away People's Choice Awards at

this year's festival were: *Taiarahia Te Kākahu Tawhito*, which picked up best feature documentary; *Nika & Madison* picked up best feature drama; and *E Ola Ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i: I Ola Ka Lāhui* picked up best short documentary. Finally *Stranger, Brother* was awarded best short drama.

Event organisers say the festival exists because of the collective efforts of many. "We acknowledge and thank our funders, sponsors, partners, donors and supporters who stand behind this kaupapa and make the festival possible each year.

"At the moment, delivering events in Aotearoa is not easy. It takes commitment, collaboration and belief in the value of coming together.

"We are deeply grateful to everyone who continues to back Māoriland and Indigenous storytelling."

Colquhoun's ballad of everyman

BY TRACEY HALL

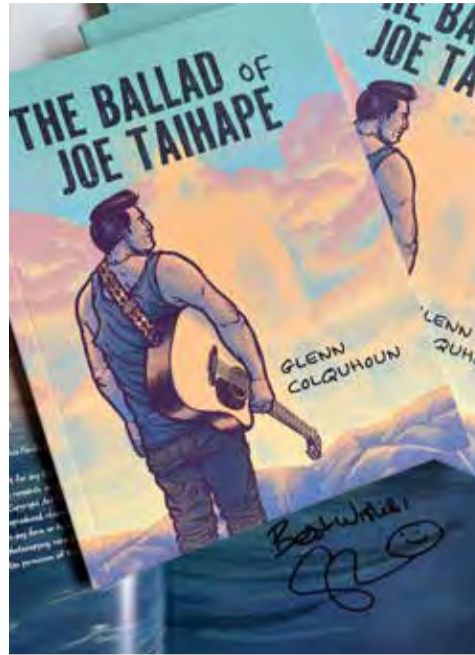


image: David Unwin / Stuff

Glenn Colquhoun, doctor and poet.

Signed copies of *The Ballad of Joe Taihape* are available at Books & Co.

Horowhenua-based poet and GP Glenn Colquhoun has released his ninth volume of poetry, *The Ballad of Joe Taihape*.

Glenn describes *The Ballad* as a "graphic mock epic poem." He says it "tells the story of Joe Taihape – a fictional everyman – and his adventures wandering through New Zealand history."

The graphic elements are stunning illustrations by six artists: some of New Zealand's leading artists, including Nigel Brown, Mat Tait, Tim Bollinger and Sophie Watson; and new up-and-coming illustrator-artists, Deanna Gunn and Lucy De Young-Hakaraia.

The character of Joe Taihape grew out of a running gag between Nigel Brown and Glenn while they were working together on another project. The ongoing banter between them led to Nigel's painting exhibition, *Joe Taihape* (2012).

Colquhoun has now responded with a

series of poems.

"I've always loved the ability of poetry to tell stories," says Glenn. "I remember listening to people of my parents' generation reciting poems they had committed to memory as kids ... It got me keen to re-inhabit the form one day and to try to make it more contemporary. It also gave me the chance to channel the kiwi vernacular I learned listening to my builder dad and his mates on the job in South Auckland when I was a kid."

Unity Books, Wellington, hosted an author talk for Glenn (and Joe) 27 February. Glenn says it "was great...there was a good turnout and it was fun to take Joe out for a test drive!"

The Ballad of Joe Taihape, published by OldKing Press, is available at Books & Co, Ōtaki. It is also available on the author's website at www.glenncolquhoun.net

Londons and Billington will finally play the Rotunda



Having been scheduled to play three years ago, Andrew and Kirsten London, with Neil Billington, will finally play the Ōtaki Rotunda for their first time.

A music fundraiser to help with the restoration of this historic Ōtaki building, they hope Billington's harmonica will assist with peeling the old paint in preparation for a new coat!

This trio have played together often and will bring great musicianship, a bit of on-stage banter and the occasional detour from the set list.

This will also be the last event until later in the year while builders get on with repiling and floor repairs, so buy your tickets now.

Space is limited. Ticket numbers will be strictly limited to 150. Ticket price for the general public, \$40; for financial members of Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda, \$35, and no charge for those people who are holding tickets to the postponed 2023 gig.

Because the Health Camp has a strict no-alcohol policy, there'll be non-alcoholic late-summer drinks for sale.

Andrew London Trio: 7–9pm, 11 April, Ōtaki Rotunda, Health Camp Road.



ŌTAKI HERITAGE
Te Whare Pouhere Taonga o Ōtaki

ŌTAKI IN THE NEWS ~ 1908

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

February 1

At a meeting of the committee of the Recreation Ground for Otaki it was decided, with the funds in hand, to purchase a piece of land from Mr W. M. Simcox, and then canvass for further subscriptions.

February 11

The slaughter-house and other buildings adjacent, belonging to Mr George Noble, had a narrow escape of being destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon, owing to a grass fire. Luckily, Mr Arthur Bright and others saw the danger and were just in time to save a conflagration. Besides the buildings, on which there was no insurance, several dead carcasses and tallow were stored, while a deal of live stock were in the yards. Another fire destroyed several acres of grass on Ranana Hohipua's property. How the fire originated is a mystery.

Sharks are very plentiful at the Otaki beach, and one captured yesterday contained some 30 young ones. Those indulging in sea bathing would be wise to keep a sharp look-out.

The Native Mission Church authorities have purchased a new organ, which was used for the first time yesterday.

Messrs Lang and Dickie are in Otaki today on business connected with the Fresh Food and Ice Co. and the Manakau Dairy Co., and it is likely will make definite arrangements for the former company to purchase the creameries in the district of the latter.

A grass fire of large dimensions occurred on Mr W. H. Simcox's run today, and has done a deal of damage. Fires at Kapiti and Paraparaumu have also burned considerable areas.

February 12

At a meeting of bowling enthusiasts last night it was decided to form a club, and to take on a 21 years' lease, a piece of ground adjacent to the Jubilee Hotel at a

rental of £1 per annum for the first seven years, and £7 per annum for remainder of the term. Mr W. B. Smith was elected secretary; Messrs. O'Rourke, O'Reilly, J. G. Stevens, F. Jones, and the secretary ex officio were appointed a committee; guarantors (overdraft not to exceed £250), Messrs. Brown, Jones, Smith, Williams, Stevens, O'Reilly, O'Rourke, and Howell. The election of other officers was left over, likewise the fixing of the annual subscription.

The Otaki Girls' Club, now a recognised institution, and having a large membership, met on Monday night and drew up a syllabus for the ensuing year. A second society of a similar nature has been formed in Otaki, but so far nothing has been reported of its doings.

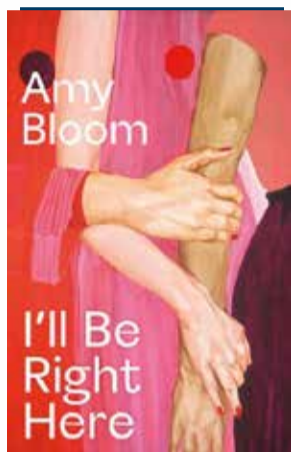


Ngā Arotakenga Mai i Te Whare Whakamātau o Ōtaki

Ōtaki Library Hours:

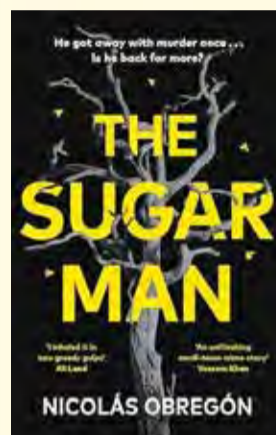
Mon-Tue: 9am-5pm
 Wed: 10am-5pm
 Thu-Fri: 9am-5pm
 Sat: 10am-4pm

I'll Be Right Here - Amy Bloom



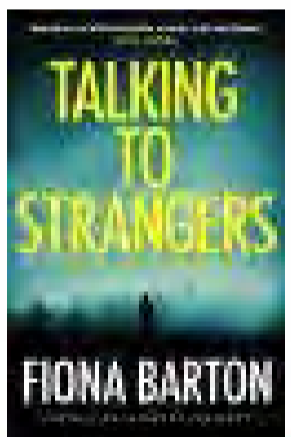
This novel follows the life of an Algerian woman, Gazala, growing up in German occupied Paris. Gazala works for real life author, Collette, and after the war moves to New York to become part of a large complicated chosen family. The story moves back and forwards over the years and seduces us with delicious food or thoughts of it. Apart from Gazala's adopted brother, Sammy, the men's parts are small, and we are swallowed up by numerous women and their connections. Possibly too many characters, but it is so well written that can be forgiven. REVIEWER: Anne - Ōtaki

The Sugar Man - Nicolás Obregón



A detective with a traumatic past is drawn back to her hometown to investigate a possible serial killer, resurfacing old wounds and well-kept mysteries. I thought the author was a technician in this genre - kept me on edge, threw me into disarray and challenged my instincts. I found no character particularly likeable which added to the mood of mistrust. The local Amish-like community storyline was fascinating – the religion and culture, but also its many secrets. A dark, engrossing read. REVIEWER: Natala - Ōtaki

Talking to Strangers - Fiona Barton



Detective Elise King's murder investigation is complicated by reporter Kiki Nunn, determined to conduct her own inquiry. Karen Simmons was killed on Valentine's Day, possibly by a man she met online. While some blame Karen's dating habits, others protest violence against women. Kiki, a struggling single mother, sees breaking this story as a career boost, despite antagonizing Elise. As tensions rise, Kiki's pursuit of the truth pits her not only against Elise but also the dangerous killer. A good read. REVIEWER: Debbie - Ōtaki

Ōtaki Library - Junior Graphic Novels



Ōtaki Library's Junior Graphic Novel collection continues to be our most-borrowed section, proving how much local tamariki love stories told through art and action. From fantasy quests to slice-of-life adventures, there's something for every young reader. Graphic novels are a great way to build reading confidence, especially for children who prefer visual storytelling. Come explore the shelves next time you visit—your next favourite book might be waiting in the Junior Graphic Novel section at Ōtaki Library.

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



What art where

Toi Matarau at the Māoriland Hub has group exhibition *Te Ata Pūao – the first light of dawn*, 24 March – 24 May.

The **Tote Modern Gallery** at Ōtaki Pottery Club. Members exhibiting. Pottery: Clare Botha, Kathryn Lim, Marci Tackett, Raelene Lord, Val Waugh. Prints: Marci Tackett For the month of April.

Ngā Wawata at Ōtaki Library has *E Kore au e Ngaro. He Kaakano i Ruia Mai i Rangiatea*, by Te Uira (Taryn Beri), for Summer 2025/26.

Old Courthouse Gallery is a co-operative space with retail and changing exhibitions.

Ngā Toi Waihanga ki Ōtaki is a gallery/shop/studio space.

Ōtaki Heritage Museum has *Mai i te Kāinga ki te Tāone Iti, Wāhanga 1: 1843-1920 / From Kāinga to Village, Part 1: 1843-1920*.

The **HORI** gallery has art + apparel.

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Energise Ōtaki: Less is so much more

BY EMILY MCDOWELL

In an increasingly volatile world here's a sure thing: the cost of extracting, transporting and using fossil fuels isn't getting cheaper. The human and ecological price is too much to pay. Much less the dollars spent at the pump. Energy is ... so hot right now.

What can we do to reduce the ecological cost of everything? In the absence of a simple answer, one key element is using much less. Repairing and replacing what we have so energy isn't squandered in making more stuff.

Using less doesn't necessarily mean losing out. So many of the ways to improve how we spend our energy have positive consequences! Like, gaining new skills. Building community. Saving money. Bigger calf muscles (here's to the bikers). Last month, volunteers at Ōtaki Repair Café mended 80% of the 103 items brought in for fixing. By not having to replace these, we 'saved' the equivalent of eighteen trees sucking in carbon emissions for ten years. Imagine that grove.

Meanwhile, tree planting continues through Ōtaki Carbon Forests. Those trees may get us closer to 'carbon neutral' but they also get us closer to cleaner air, richer soil, more and healthier native birds, plants and insects. It's grown a bunch of people who now know each other, share planting information, get their hands dirty and put trees in the ground together.

We know that 'clean' energy has costs too. How can we adapt today's batteries and solar panels for new purposes when they're past their best? One idea: we plan to adopt electric bus batteries for energy storage, then, when they don't work,

extract their rare minerals for reuse. (Watch this space.)

How can we help make sure our power demands don't take over our basic needs, using up land for food and housing, for starters? Another idea: agrivoltaics.

Energise Ōtaki is looking for local landowners interested in combining solar panels with crops and/ or animals on their land! Here's a great example of how efficiency (using less) can lead to diversely better results. It turns out that putting panels on stilts, providing shelter underneath them, can mean some crops and animals like sheep thrive. Not only do farmers gain power but crop quality and animals' quality of life and wool can improve. Which is a win-win. Are you interested? We can help. Please contact us at: office@energiseotaki.nz

What is all comes down to is working out how we can live together well. We commend Kāpiti Coast District Council for its plans to install solar and battery systems at eight community hubs in our rohe/ region, meaning our communities will be able to gather more easily in times of emergency. And in between. Choosing how and what power we use is for now and the future.

On the theme, Warm Up Ōtaki will soon be offering a walk-in service for advice on power bills, insulation, and more. Power to the people.



Zero Waste Ōtaki update



BY DAVE MACINTYRE



Colin Young (at right) and Colin Hirst with the stylish loo door. *image supplied*

It isn't quite a loo with a view, but the outside compostable toilet that Colin Young and Colin Hirst have added to an eco-property in rural Waikanae adds an extra dimension to the house – topped off with a wooden door obtained from Zero Waste Ōtaki.

The two Colins are developing the property locally and have completed multiple projects over the last 18 months, using as much recycled and sustainable/ green products as possible.

"The interior of the house features locally-sourced untreated rough-cut macrocarpa timber for the wall lining and the kitchen is of formaldehyde-free bamboo construction," says Colin Young.

"The house is also fully off the grid and carbon-neutral, fully solar-powered.

Waste is recycled and a large vegetable garden and orchard provide food to complement the organically-sourced meat. We also built a tiny house on the property that is a meditation/yoga facility for the family.

"A friend told us of ZWŌ and we have purchased a few different doors and some specialist wood (rimu etc) from the woodyard to help us with various projects we have undertaken. The toilet is compostable where waste is eventually returned around the property. It is located on the end of the deck and we were looking for an external door that matched the kwila of the deck. The door also needed to have windows to let light into the toilet."

The men found the perfect classic wooden door with two empty panels, which they filled with translucent polycarbonate sheets instead of glass, to let light in.

The two Colins (one a qualified builder and light engineer, the other an IT specialist and project manager) run a business called "C2it Levin" – www.C2it.co.nz – which offers both a handyman and qualified building service, as well as a delivery and pick-up service for green waste disposal.

ZWŌ is open every Wednesday, 9.30-11am and on the last Sunday of the month, 9.30am – noon.

Colin Young (at right) and Colin Hirst with the stylish loo door We sort into categories such as interior framing wood, piles, fence posts, palings, decking, doors, windows, native timbers and plywood. Our volunteers will direct you to what you need.

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



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Ōtaki Community Board

BY ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER JACKIE ELLIOTT



Jackie Elliott

image supplied

This month I am focusing on trees in Ōtaki. From the tiniest native seedlings, to the giant that graced our town. Ōtaki lost a great tree during the Valentines weekend storms. Deep in a protected valley section in the popular sanitorium walkway, behind Haruātai Park, one of the biggest trees. This great oak was completely split and downed. It would have been spectacular to see and hear, but for those who went to see it fall – and our council staff and contractors who were quick to reopen the path – it was quite sad to see.

This latest storm was a memorable record-breaker, with a 13 ½ metre wave recorded in Wellington and record trees fallen by the 130 kmph plus winds and fierce rain squalls. Those whose properties, vehicles and homes were damaged by fallen trees and branches suffered real loss. Often those trees were growing in a neighbouring property, and tree owners face the responsibility of costs if insurance companies do decide that a falling overhanging tree or branch could cause property damage and nothing was done about it.

Even though the storm was centred off the South Wairarapa coast, KCDC staff responded to over 100 callouts and emergency services – even more. Weather

events of this intensity must now be considered life-threatening, normal and to be expected.

When a storm is forecast, every resident should check and clear their guttering to reduce water damage to homes and buildings caused by water that should be draining away. Secure your trampolines and loose garden furniture to protect them from becoming flying hazards and, whenever possible, stay off the roads.

The council street-sweeper is contracted to come to your street twice a year, so those with stormwater grates outside your properties, please help out by raking up the leaves and removing anything blocking those drains before a storm, or your street might quickly become a lake. Preparation before a serious weather event reduces harm and damage.

Owners of significant trees should check all your trees now: remove dead branches, check for diseased, split or damaged branches and trunks, and carefully check the ground around the base and tree roots for any sign of new instability or uplifted ground level. An assessment by a professional arborist is very worthwhile and recommended.

At our own property, we have done this check and have planned to remove some large exotic trees. This does bring some sadness as our tree canopy contributes to the major tree corridor between the sea and back hills and we love the native birdlife that passes through here.

The good news is all our mature food-rich natives are staying and visiting birds bring the added bonus of spreading a wealth of native seeds so we will once again be offering free native seedlings to anyone who wants to enjoy growing their own new trees.

Ōtaki MP's report

BY MP FOR ŌTAKI TIM COSTLEY



Tim Costley at the Beehive for Taste 2026 last month.

image supplied

Ōtaki was pumping last month.

I'm writing this having just got home from a busy weekend in Ōtaki, including the Kite Festival, the Netball pre-season tournament at Ngā Purapura, Te Wānanga ō Raukawa, and the Teddy Bear's picnic at the Ōtaki Market.

Add to those amazing local events the other big events in Kapiti over the weekend: my Saturday included the Kāpiti Classic music festival, the Charity Run at Queen Elizabeth Park, and the Menzshed Garage Sale. It was great to see so many visitors, and we need more.

More tourists bring more money into our region, into our shops, into motels and cafes and ultimately into local family bank accounts. On average visitors here spend \$309 per person per day. An extra 3000 tourists visiting Ōtaki for just one day would mean extra \$1m in our town. That sounds pretty achievable.

National have focussed on growing tourism in NZ, and last year brought in \$12.5b to New Zealand straight from the pockets of foreigners. That's up on the year before and also a few years before that too. Aussie visitors are even up on pre-Covid levels so it's more than just covid recovery; it's an intentional effort to grow our visitors because more tourists

mean more customers, and that means more jobs. That's great for us all.

Tourists aren't the only way we bring in more money; we also sell a bunch of stuff overseas and domestically. I've visited exporters in Ōtaki and they're pleased to see our plan to double the value of trade is working. In just the last three months of 2025 we brought in \$29b in trade. Dairy is up 10% and meat is up 21%. It all makes a genuine difference locally. Trade brings millions into local businesses and local families and that really does help us all.

Selling to other regions also helps. I'm shameless in promoting Ōtaki. Last week I held a special event in the Beehive banquet hall to promote our local food and beverage sector with many Ōtaki brands present. I invited cafe owners, supermarket and restaurant owners, hospitality managers and many more from across the country to come and be part of it because I want them to sell our local products across the country.

I am serious about making life more affordable and growing opportunities in Ōtaki. That's why we're growing tourism and trade as part of our plan to build the future of Ōtaki.



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tel: 06 364 6346
Worship: 11am

ANGLICAN
Ōtaki All Saints Church
47 Te Rauparaha Street, Ōtaki
tel: 06 364 7099
Service: Sunday 10am, All Saints Church
For Hadfield Hall bookings:
email: office@otakianglican.nz

Ōtaki Rangiatea Church
33–37 Te Rauparaha Street, Ōtaki
Sunday Eucharist: 9am
Church viewing hours, school term
Mon–Fri, 9.30am – 1.30pm
tel: 06 364 6838
email: rangiatea.church@xtra.co.nz

Acts Churches, The HUB
157 Tasman Road, Ōtaki
tel: 06 364 6911
Family service: 10:15am
Big Wednesday: 10:15am

CATHOLIC
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Sunday: 10am





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Gigs, carts and carriages at ŌMRC



Andrea Thomson, of Feilding, drives S. Myfanwy during the Marathon.

images: Tracey Hall



Jennifer Carew, of Te Awamutu (above) with one of her two pairs of Welsh Ponies, navigates an obstacle in the Marathon.

Horowhenua and Districts Harness Driving Association (HDHDA) held their inaugural Combined Driving Trial at the Ōtaki Māori Racing Club (ŌMRC) the weekend of 14 and 15 March.

Ōhau's HDHDA Convenor Alison Cooper says, "We were very privileged to be able to use the ŌMRC and the Regional Council tracks. To be able to demonstrate and promote our sport in the middle of a town, where all the phases can be viewed by spectators from one place, was wonderful. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this event so successful."

Combined Driving closely aligns to ridden eventing, with three phases: Dressage, Cones and Marathon. Scores from all three phases are added together to establish the class winners.

The three phases were held across two days. Day one consisted of Dressage and Cones. The Marathon, including obstacles, was held on the second day and took part over Te Roto Road, the racecourse, tracks around the quarry lakes. Obstacles were designed by HDHDA club members to test the equines stamina, ability to turn and the drivers memory.

The weekend saw competitors travel from Waikato, Hawkes Bay, Manawatū and Wairarapa joining with the local harness drivers. Competitors took part with tiny 10hh ponies pulling low two-wheeled gigs, to 17.1hh horses pulling four-wheeled carriages.

The North Island members of the New

Zealand Carriage Driving Society enjoy eight scheduled events around the motu annually. Lloyd Weal, President of the Ground Jury says, "we had 22 entries taking part. It's great to be able to go to new locations and show what we can do."

Local drivers were well represented in the winners circle:

Alison Cooper with grooms Leanne Ft Paul Wreakes-Fallen and Chris Golding drove Miss Stockholm, winning the Open Single Horse. Alison also drove SM Ra in the Training class.

Donna Tholen with Karen Walker won the Training class with Willow Park Music Man; second was Karyn McLachlan with Phillipa Betts driving Pied Piper Tobias Thyme.

Winning the Novice class was Ruth Brown driving Ollie; second was Emily Thomson with Sonya Trompette (Wairarapa) driving Philosophy; and Ruth Wallis driving George came third.

Other local drivers in the Novice class were Ana Golding driving Daisy Duke and Donna Cherry driving Cotswold Cherry.

Multiple driver Jennifer Carew from Pokuru, Te Awamutu, won the Open Multiple class and Intermediate class with her two pairs of Welsh Ponies.

HDHDA Chair Donna Tholen, of Te Horo, says, "Events like this take a lot of organising and support. We had a great team and I hope that everyone who came to watch enjoyed the event. We certainly will do another in the future."

Ōtaki well represented at Area Trial

BY LENKA FIELDS



image: Tracey Hall

Turtle Lindberg and Saxon Princess, one of her two competing horses, at QEII Park last month for the Eventing Wellington Autumn Horse Trial.

The Eventing Wellington Autumn Horse Trial at QEII Park, Sunday 22 March, drew strong Kāpiti entries and Ōtaki was well represented among the one-day event competition.

With a format that reflects the traditional army discipline of eventing, competitors begin with a dressage test, followed by show jumping, before heading out across the much-anticipated cross country course – all in one day.

I caught up with three riders, all connected to Ōtaki College, at the event. Andeana (Ande) Hakaraia (Ōtaki College 2019 graduate) was a part of the college's equestrian team, which she describes as supportive and fun. She is now a full-time coach and competitive rider. She balances her own ambitions with mentoring younger riders – many of whom competed at QEII Park.

Ande had two horses in the CNC105 (105cm jump height) class, finishing third and fifth, but her day extended beyond her own rides. With around 15 of her students competing, she spent much of the event supporting them between her rounds.

"It's fulfilling and rewarding to be a part of their journeys," she says.

Paris Karl-Fields (Ōtaki College Dux 2022) credits her early experiences at home and within the local riding community for shaping her journey.

"It was about hanging out with friends and ponies and just having fun. Like so many, we didn't have money for experienced ponies so I broke my first pony in when I was 12."

Paris continues to ride (while studying Law at Victoria University) and recently achieved a personal milestone of competing at 1.30m (jump height).

Her connection to the community remains strong. Having worked as a coach at Te Horo Equestrian Centre and Gorge River Equestrian, she highlights the importance of accessible entry points for young riders. At the recent event, her long-time pony, Woosh – now 15 – was lent to a younger rider needing confidence. The pair came away with a third-place rosette, but for Paris, the real success was simpler: "the best part was the rider spent the whole day smiling."

Current Ōtaki College Deputy Head Girl Turtle Lindberg – balancing school, coaching at Te Horo Equestrian Centre and her own riding – competed both of her horses at the trials. Saxon Princess tackled her first-ever one-day event in the 65cm class, while Tootlepip stepped up to the 80cm level.

"It was a really good event... heaps of fun, with huge personal achievements for both of them," she said.

Turtle also represents the volunteer culture that underpins such events. Both Turtle and Paris have been helping to set up jumps and being fence judges since they were very young. Paris's mother organises the show-jumping section, while Turtle's mother has been a dedicated event volunteer for many years.

Ande has recently taken on a big voluntary role within the Eventing Wellington committee and is in charge of sponsorship. This is a vital role for the sport as there is no funding. Her efforts for the last two events have been enormous and have secured many new sponsors, as well as undertaken new initiatives.

Sponsorship plays a crucial role in keeping the event viable. Kāpiti businesses – including the Stihl Shop and Kinley Plumbing – are vital to the success of the event.

Paving the way to natural burial



Contracting to the Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC), the Rocka Excavation team have created an extension to the roadway within the Ōtaki Cemetery grounds, off the end of Anzac Road.

Rocka Estimator Graeme said they've enjoyed the job, while acknowledging the "sensitive nature" of the environment in which they've carried out works.

McCormack Asphalt laid the asphalt top coat Wednesday 18 March (pictured).

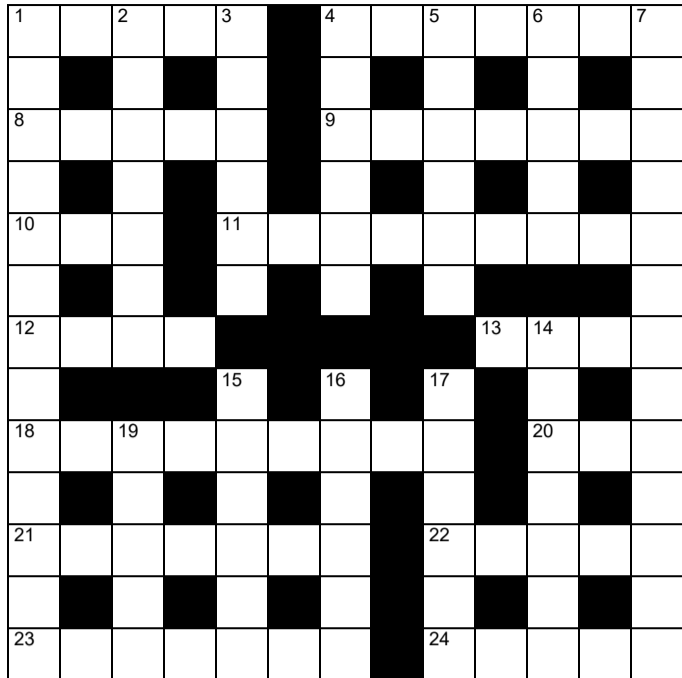
Team Leader Cemeteries, Burials and Cremations at Kāpiti Coast District Council, Jennifer McKenzie says, "The

Graeme of Rocka Excavation captured McCormack Asphalt's laying of the top coat.

extension of the internal road at Ōtaki Cemetery will give people, vehicles and hearses safer access to the Natural Burial area. Burials in this area use biodegradable materials and native planting for a simple, environmentally friendly resting place."

KCDC has confirmed the internal road extension is complete and the fencing should be removed by Easter.

Set on 3.9 hectares, Ōtaki Cemetery is the oldest in Kāpiti and the first to offer natural burials.



ACROSS

- 1. Sort of green informer (5)
- 4. Some separate pieces of verse composed by a leading lyricist (7)
- 8. He teaches one to express disapproval or finish it (5)
- 9. TV, alive and kicking in Israel (3,4)
- 10. Something sheepish that can go either way (3)
- 11. It is a case of dessert (5,4)
- 12. Middling thus repeatedly (2-2)
- 13. A fair-weather punishment (4)
- 18. Pure liquid drops in shower (9)
- 20. Lex is laid down by the domineering (3)
- 21. Having risen, begin to be a jack-in-office (7)
- 22. Retained about a thousand that were combed (5)
- 23. In half the grades it is the examination one hates (7)
- 24. A fast car it's right to care about (5)

DOWN

- 1. How one gains on another and harvests the earth (7,6)
- 2. She's not being herself at work or in play (7)
- 3. Warfare on the street is prevalent (6)
- 4. Start on journey to expound something (3,3)
- 5. Little volume an American Indian has in a spiral scroll (6)
- 6. Thoroughly enjoy a dance when about five (5)
- 7. Pale mauve liquid scent (8,5)
- 14. Muslim claim is misapplied (7)
- 15. Gives one's word about wrasse being taken from it (6)
- 16. It may have its symbol of classic standing (6)
- 17. A dealer was skint by the end of the year (6)
- 19. One sent astray by small picture in a bigger one (5)

ACROSS

- 1. Its leaves are blades (5)
- 4. Various, sundry (7)
- 8. Private teacher (5)
- 9. Israeli city (3,4)
- 10. Female sheep (3)
- 11. Sort of open dessert tart (5,4)
- 12. Tolerable, indifferent (2-2)
- 13. Monetary punishment (4)
- 18. Liquid from the skies (9)
- 20. Legislation (3)
- 21. A parvenu (7)
- 22. Combed, tidy (5)
- 23. Greatly dislikes (7)
- 24. One in speed event (5)

DOWN

- 1. Reduces the distance between (7,6)
- 2. Tragedienne (7)
- 3. Contention, conflict (6)
- 4. Start, go forth (3,3)
- 5. Spiral form (6)
- 6. Feast, make merry riotously (5)
- 7. Scent distilled from flowering shrub (8,5)
- 14. Of the Muslim world (7)
- 15. Uses bad language (6)
- 16. Social standing (6)
- 17. One buying and selling for others (6)
- 19. Insertion, insert (5)

3	9	5	1	2	2	8	6	9	4	7
1	6	7	5	4	9	2	2	8	3	3
4	8	2	7	3	1	9	5	5	5	
9	5	1	2	8	7	4	3	9	9	
7	3	4	9	6	1	8	5	2	2	
9	2	8	3	5	4	7	1	6	6	
2	1	9	8	3	6	5	7	4	4	
8	4	6	7	9	5	3	2	1	1	
5	7	3	4	1	2	9	6	8	8	

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

		3			2			8
		6	7	9				
2	1							7
	2			5	4			6
			9		1			
6			2	8				3
	8						9	5
				4	9	2		
3			1			6		

ACROSS: 1. Grass 4. Several 8. Tutor 9. Tel Aviv 10. Ewe 11. Fruit flan 12. So-so 13. Fine 18. Rainwater 20. Law 21. Uplstart 22. Kemp 23. Detests 24. Racer
DOWN: 1. Gathers ground 2. Actress 3. Scribe 4. Set out 5. Volume 6. Revel 7. Lavender water 14. Islamic 15. Swears 16. Status 17. Broker 19. Inset

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SPORT

Ōtaki Mail's sports news is generously supported by Travis Robertson.

Legendz open season, AED at the ready

BY TRACEY HALL



image: Tracey Hall

Whiti Te Ra's Masters team, Whiti Legendz (and Boi Boi the bulldog) with another of their successful team efforts: an AED for all.

Ōtaki's rugby league Masters team (35+years) Whiti Legendz led the charge for installation of a 24/7 public-access AED at the shared homegrounds of Whiti Te Ra and Rāhui clubs.

With Kāpiti Coast District Council on side to procure, install and maintain the device, and further funding from the Pelorus Trust, the Legendz ensured the AED can be accessed by all, rather than have it located inside a building.

The AED is located at the Domain (Jim Spiers Lane) next to the Rāhui Clubroom entrance ramp. In the event of an

emergency, call 111 and you will be provided the AED access pin code.

The Legendz also hosted the first round of their season, with the Wellington Rugby League region's 11 Masters teams all playing at the Domain, Saturday 14 March.

Legendz player Stephan Titze says, "although some teams scored more tries than others, it is always a draw – with Rugby League the ultimate winner."

The matches were followed by shared kai at the Whiti Te Ra clubrooms.

Premiership pre-season at Ngā Purapura

BY TRACEY HALL



image: Adrian Watkins

The six teams on Te Wānanga o Raukawa campus – their accomodation for the annual pre-season tournament.

Te Wānanga o Raukawa (TWR) hosted their ninth pre-season netball tournament 13–15 March, with all six ANZ Premiership teams competing.

The partnership between Central Pulse and TWR formed in 2017; the same year the ANZ Premiership was launched.

"Our partnership with Te Wānanga o Raukawa has been fundamental to the Pulse's identity," Netball Central Chief Executive Ann Hay says.

"We are who we are because of our partnership with Te Wānanga o Raukawa. Our values, our actions and how we show up on and off the court is intertwined with the work we have undertaken with them.



image: Tracey Hall

Pulse and Stars huddle after the Pulse's first winning match (62–58) of the pre-season, 13 March.

I'm not sure you could pull the strands apart now; it's part of the Pulse identity."

The popular matches are all played at the Wānanga's health and fitness facility, Ngā Purapura.

The teams, including management, officials and umpires are accommodated at TWR's campus during the tournament.

TWR Te Whare Tūhono Marketing Communications Lead, Stacey Winterburn says, "it was a great weekend of top talent on display. The teams also learnt a new waiata while on campus.

Overall it was an amazing weekend enjoyed by all in attendance – on and off the court."

Rāhui Premiers open the season at home

BY TRACEY HALL



image: Tracey Hall

Rāhui Premiers warm up before their season opener against Levin College Old Boys, Saturday 21 March.

The Rāhui Premier grade began the season with a draw at home in the first round of their Ramsbotham Cup 2026 competition.

Hosting the Levin College Old Boys RFC, Rāhui scored the first points on the board within the first five minutes of the match, but ultimately the final score of 14-all demonstrated the strength and determination of both sides at the 2026

season's outset.

There is a total of six teams in the Horowhenua Kāpiti Rugby Football Union Premier grade vying for the Ramsbotham Cup.

After the second fixture, Rāhui Premiers sit in second place on the points ladder. Rāhui will play the five other teams in the competition three times before the semis and finals in July.

Surfcasters angling for the big one this month

BY TRACEY HALL



Plumbing; Safeguard Storage Ōtaki; Kāpiti Coast District Council; Wild Blue Tackle; KIWILOO; and

The Kāpiti Big Fish Surfcasting Competition at Ōtaki Beach again offers many cash prizes over 18 and 19 April.

Hosted by the Ōtaki Boating Club, the event draws big entries annually.

Club Secretary Tony Martin says, "the competition attracts a broad audience, with around two-thirds of competitors travelling from outside the Kāpiti region, angling to catch the big one."

The event attracts also strong support from local businesses, championing the event through sponsorship or in-kind contributions. The 2026 sponsors include: Ōtaki Hunting & Fishing; Futurisk, Koastal Kerb Ltd; Alpha Pipelines; Norwood NZ Farm Machinery; Trilford

JB's ("No 1 for your No 2s") as the competition's Major Sponsor.

There's a \$15,000+ prize pool, including \$2,000 cash prizes for the heaviest kahawai and snapper; and daily \$250 prizes for the heaviest fish in each category.

Last year saw 145 anglers fishing a total of 160 rods.

Tony says, "with tickets to last year's competition selling out you'll need to get in quick to secure a spot."

Booking details and competition rules: <https://www.otakiboatingclub.co.nz/competitions/kapiti-big-fish-2026>



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Central family living

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For Sale Buyers \$845,000+
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Otaki Beach 37 Kiharoa Street



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Otaki 63 Waerenga Road



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Otaki 275B Rangioru Road



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🏠 3 🛏 3 🏠 2

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For Sale Buyers \$845,000+
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Te Horo 1191-1193 State Highway 1



Two titles, endless possibilities

A premium lifestyle offering across two titles - the home on 1,937m2 and an adjoining 6.207ha block delivering flexibility and scale. Perfect for extended family living with potential to build on the second title, for those wanting to expand the well established orchard, or for buyers seeking quality grazing land with sheds suited to horse stables. The land can also be returned to an uncropped state if desired. A private bore on 1193 supplies the home and irrigation. With the old State Highway reverting to a local road, there may be future scope for commercial activity or subdivision, subject to Council consent and approval.

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For Sale Buyers \$1,695,000+
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