Est. 1892

ŌTAKI MAIL ©

www.otakimail.co.nz | Te Mēra o Ōtaki | September 2026

Kaumātua Ricki receives Mayoral Award

BY NIKKI PAPATSOUMAS

image: Tracey Hall

Ricki Baker with his wife Hinemihi and his Mayoral Award at Raukawa Marae.

For Kaumātua Ricki Baker (Ngāti Raukawa Au ki te Tonga, Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai, and Ngāti Toa Rangatira) volunteering is simply "serving his people".

"It's a bit like a lifestyle, you get used to doing things at all times of day and night," he says.

Last month Ricki was recognised for his ongoing community service at the 2026 Kāpiti Good Sorts and Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards, where he received the 2026 Mayoral Award.

The framed Mayoral Award was accompanied by a kotiate carved by Brian and Matene Climie.

Kāpiti Coast District Council say Ricki's service to whānau, hapū, iwi, and the wider community reflects a life given generously to others.

"I didn't realise the enormity of the award until I got there," he says. "It's quite daunting. I know there are a lot of other people out there that do the stuff that I do - but it is nice to be acknowledged for the work I do.

"I was truly blown away, I wasn't expecting that kind of honorary award."

Ricki's connections to Ōtaki and the community are strong – his grandparents and dad grew up here, his ancestors before them.

"I have always had an affinity to Ōtaki and the Kāpiti Coast is a beautiful place to live. I really feel settled, my tupuna are here with me."

That's what brought him to Ōtaki two decades ago, he first worked at Te Wānanga o Raukawa as a tutor in the teaching department.

"[I was] training teachers on the equivalent of a degree which took three years of study. The programme was called Poumanawa Mātauranga Whakaakoranga. I still have ties with Te Wānanga o Raukawa working alongside some staff when required."

Ricki is Kaumātua at Raukawa Marae. Part of this is carrying out blessings for whānau who need to feel safe, spiritually, physically and mentally.

"My role is [also] helping to uphold tikanga and kawa on and off our marae, mainly at Raukawa and Whakarongotai Marae when called upon.

Ricki is also a Steward of the Ōtaki Māori Racing Club, a member of the RSA darts club, Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki member and Padre for Ngā Uri o te Rua Tekau mā Waru (previously 28th Māori Battalion - D Company).

"I suppose I am an independent advisor, too, when people need support with kaupapa Māori," he says.

Alongside this he works full time as a Kairuruku Tautoko Akoranga (Learning Support Coordinator) in four of the seven schools here in Ōtaki and is Apotoro Rehita for the Haahi Ratana, and oversees the running of Ratana parish in Ōtaki and also across the whole of the Wellington region.

But for Ricki the most important role is whānau.

"First and foremost I am a husband, a father and grandfather to my kin.

"You can't do what I do unless you have a family who understands. My wife, children and grandchildren are part of what I do. It's not just me, it is my whole family that does this work."

RSA's future unclear
page 3

Candidates discuss housing in Ōtaki
page 6

Whiti Te Rā and Rāhui premier champions
page 19

Local people. Local care.
Local difference.
Kelly&Co REALTY
59 Main Street Ōtaki
kellyandco.nz

Ballentynes sadly say bye

BY NIKKI PAPATSOUMAS

The staff at Ballentynes, Ōtaki, (l–r): Jackie (manager), Gillian, Vicki, Sue and Jo. *image supplied*

After almost three decades of dressing the community, Ballentynes has closed its doors.

Women's apparel retailer Ballentynes Fashion Central announced it would be closing 13 of its physical stores across the country last month, including its beloved store here in Ōtaki, which closed on Wednesday 2 September.

Its remaining 10 stores have been acquired by national women's fashion retailer Caroline Eve.

The fashion retailer has deep-rooted connections to the Kāpiti community – its very first store opened in Paraparaumu Beach in 1972.

Following the news of the closure, locals took to social media to share their memories of the store and pass on well-wishes to staff, with many saying they prefer a bricks-and-mortar store to shopping online.

"The staff and shop will be sadly missed, what a shame it's closing down," one local said on Facebook.

"Thanks to the ladies for making it a lovely place to visit," said another, with another commenting, "very sad to see the store close, I have had superb service from the lovely staff."

Ōtaki store manager Jackie Rutherford has been helping to dress locals since the store opened its doors 26 years ago. Prior to this she worked for more than a decade at Dowsetts Drapery.

Jackie says she was shocked when she heard the news, but understands many businesses are battling in the current economy.

"I am going to really miss the customer contact, I have made so many friends. It's amazing, I have got to know them and what is going on in their lives all while selling them pretty frocks to go out in. I have really appreciated it.

"We really appreciate all the well-wishes. I am going to miss everybody."

Jackie says she and the girls have planned an afternoon celebration with customers for later in the month to toast the end of an era.

Ballentynes Managing Director Graham Ballentyne says Ballentynes Fashion Central has been part of New Zealand communities for generations.

"We have been very grateful for the support of the Ōtaki community since we took over Dowsetts Drapery from Kevin and Robyn Gardiner.

"This has been an extremely difficult decision, particularly because of the impact on our team members, many of whom have given years of loyal service to the business and our many faithful customers," he says.

Graham says the decision to close follows a prolonged period of challenging retail conditions.

"Especially since Covid, with changing consumer behaviour, increased operating costs, declining turnover and growing pressure from low-cost international online competitors."

The restructure will be largely completed by the new year.

SCAN TO ENTER

or go to
otakidollars.com

The *Ōtaki Mail* is excited to be part of the inaugural **Ōtaki Dollars** initiative.

Any paid advertising with us for the month of **October** will be eligible for **spot prizes**.

Plus, a receipt from us, along with two other receipts of $20+, will put you in the **Grand Prize Draw of $5000** to be spent with any participating Ōtaki and Te Horo businesses.

Good luck!!

ŌTAKI MAIL
Te Māra o Ōtaki

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 newsstands in Manakau and Waikanae, at the beginning of the month.

For all news tips and editorial submissions email: otakimail@xtra.co.nz

Copy and advertising deadlines are the 17th of each month.

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

Co-editors: Nikki Papatsoumas and Tracey Hall.

Designer: Tracey Hall.

Contributors this month: Vivienne Bailey, Dave MacIntyre, Tim Costley, Simon Black, Janet Holborow, Ōtaki Eye, Greg Potts, Scott Kendrick and Fleur Hobson.

Printed by Beacon Print, Whakatāne. The *Ōtaki Mail* is a member of the NZ Community Newspapers Association.

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

CHILDHOOD CANCER FOUNDATION DISCO

Shining Bright for Our Brave Little Stars ★

Entry Fee: Koha

DATE: FRIDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER 2026

VENUE: MEMORIAL HALL, ŌTAKI

TIME: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Disco Fun for the Whole Whānau!

CANDY FLOSS
SAUSAGE SIZZLE
RAFFLES & GIVEAWAYS
GREAT MUSIC & DANCING

Supporting a Great Cause

Rare Disease Awareness
Brain Tumour Support NZ
Childhood Cancer Foundation

Let's light up the night in GOLD –
the official colour for Childhood Cancer Awareness

Future of Ōtaki RSA remains unknown

BY NIKKI PAPATSOUMAS

Image: Nikki Papatsoumas

RSA President Trist Reweti addresses the 30 August meeting.

Growing debt is leaving the future of the Ōtaki RSA hanging in the balance, with members now fighting to keep the club's doors open.

Last month, the Ōtaki RSA committee announced that unless the club could find $60,000 to pay its creditors, they would need to close the club's doors for good.

With the news of closure imminent, and following two closed meetings of the RSA Committee throughout August, more than 100 people attended a public meeting on Sunday 30 August, to hear about the future of the club and share their feedback.

Current General Manager Te Hau Maiangi Short said the club has been trading insolvent for many years

"For the last couple of years we have had money in the bank to sustain the downward spiral, but now we are just weeks away from closing."

Te Hau told attendees of the public meeting that she had resigned from her role as General Manager so the club could save additional money by no longer paying her manager's salary.

While the RSA owns its building on Raukawa Street freehold, it is running insolvent, which means it doesn't have enough money to pay its bills. With insurance and power bills totalling more than $5000 a month, members are looking at ways they can adapt their trading model to keep the lights on.

The short-term goal is now to pay all, or the majority, of debt owed to creditors while working to find a solution that will ensure monthly income exceeds monthly costs. The club says it's determined to remain open in some form, to continue to represent a strong connection to the service.

Two options were presented to the community at last month's public meeting.

The first option would see the club continue to run, but with changes to current operations to ensure bills could be paid. These changes include exploring the addition of solar panels on the building's roof and relying on more volunteers to lower staffing costs.

The second option would involve selling the building, paying all debts including loans from members and merging with an existing club or purchasing a smaller building to retain as an RSA.

The Ōtaki Golf Club and Waikanae Charter Club have both expressed interest in a merger.

RSA President Trist Reweti says time is key right now – and he took the time to thank members and locals for their loans and donations, now totalling more than $17,000.

"We are fighting to retain option one for as long as we possibly can. If we can't secure funds we will be forced to explore option two.

"But as a membership we unanimously want to obtain what we have… we will see how we go over the next couple of weeks."

Trist says they will see how things are tracking in another couple of weeks as they continue crowd-funding efforts and talk to local businesses to explore sponsorship.

To make a donation, head to www.givealittle.co.nz and search for Ōtaki RSA.

Notices

Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori

The 2026 theme is Tāone Reo Māori / Māori Language Towns, and the week runs from 14 to 20 September.

Rotunda Quiz Night

The Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda are holding another Quiz Night fundraiser, 7pm, Saturday 5 September, at the Ōtaki Golf Club. Register your team of six (maximum) at the door.

Words and Wheels

One of the free public 'In other words, Ōtaki' residency events is a collaboration with the Ōtaki Repair Café. Ashleigh Young (writer, editor, cyclist) will present 'Words and Wheels', 11am, 6 September, Gertrude Atmore Supper Room. All welcome.

30th Anniversary Bingo

The Ōtaki Women's Community Club will hold a Drag Bingo fundraiser as part of their 30th anniversary celebrations this year. 7–10pm, Saturday 26 September, Rāhui Sports Club. To book, go to https://events.humanitix.com/owcc-drag-bingo

Producers Night Market

The Ōtaki Women's Community Market is holding another evening market for local producers, from 4:30pm, Thursday 1 October, Old SH 1 (opposite New World).

Reach me at my Kāpiti office

National

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NZ

Kāpiti Office

Corner of Te Roto Drive and Kāpiti Road • 021 851 206

kapiti@parliament.govt.nz

Opening Hours

Mon: 10am - 3pm **Tues:** 10am - 3pm **Wed:** Closed

Thurs: 10am - 2pm **Fri:** 10am - 3pm

Tim Costley

MP for Ōtaki

Authorised by T Costley, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.

Te Horo Talk

BY VIVIENNE BAILEY

Predator Free Te Horo

Initiated more than 12 months ago in Te Horo, and continuing the start made in the Te Horo Beach community in 2024, the Predator Free Te Horo network currently totals 155 trappers and 260 traps set across the Hautere Plain, from Te Hapua Road in the south to the Otaki River, and from the beach to the hills.

The catch tally since trapping began is more than 1,000 with rats, stoats, hedgehogs, mice, ferrets and possums making up about half of the total. Rabbits make up the remainder.

“Anecdotally, some people are already noticing an increase in birds around their homes and properties,” says Coordinator Quentin Long. “There is also likely to be less pressure on native bugs, skinks and geckos. That’s what Predator Free is all about, encouraging native bird life by removing introduced pests and creating a better place for us all to enjoy.”

All traps are free but must be checked regularly and catches reported.

Residents in the wider Te Horo area keen to join the programme, or interested in finding out more information, can email pftehoro@gmail.com

A garden lovers’ market for Te Horo

With the success of last year’s garden trail behind them, Te Horo Hall’s fundraising committee is planning a further garden themed event on Sunday 22 November, 10.00am to 3.00pm at Te Horo Hall.

‘A Garden Affair’ will feature garden inspired stalls and three new gardens to visit as well as a huge array of plants for sale (thousands of garden treasures from days gone by), a giant tombola (with more than 22 prizes to be won), Elemental Cider or coffee and yummy food such as tea and scones at the hall café.

Tickets are $15 (not yet available) with all proceeds raised going towards the ongoing upgrade of Te Horo Hall. For further information www.tehorohall.org.nz

Paddy’s Mart, 12 September

The annual Te Horo School Country Fair, also known as Paddy’s Mart, is Saturday 12 September. Plants, pony rides, books & toys, sweets, raffles, cake stalls, bric a brac, produce stalls and live music. Gates open at 11am.

Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards recognition in Te Horo

At last month’s Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards ceremony for Kāpiti the Te Horo Hall Society received Runner Up in the Heritage & Environment category and The Kilns at Te Horo won the Arts & Culture category.

The Kilns at Te Horo will hold their fundraiser, **Soup Sunday**, **27 September**, **12–2pm**. Pre-purchase tickets, $45, at thekilnsatehoro.co.nz

Drinks and Nibbles

Join neighbours and those new to the community at Te Horo Hall for the monthly BYO get together. Bring a plate of finger food to share and something to drink. Friday 4 September 5.30pm. Everyone welcome.

right: Predator Free Te Horo coordinators, Quentin Long (left) and John Draper, with an array of traps available to Te Horo residents.

image supplied

ŌTHBA appoints new Chair at AGM

BY TRACEY HALL

image supplied

The new Chair of ŌTHBA, Leon Kingi.

The Ōtaki and Te Horo Business Association (ŌTHBA) welcomed a new Chair and two new committee members at their AGM, hosted by Lee and Hamish Wells of Winemakers, Te Horo, (formerly The Winemaker's Daughter) 4 August.

Committee member Leon Kingi was appointed as the new Chair and two new members – Chris Darby and Tim Griggs – joined the committee.

Leon grew up in Ōtaki and "plans to be here forever." He's clear that he expects members to contribute to the association in whatever way they can. "I'm not a babysitter," he says. He also acknowledged the positive bank balance as a result of the association forming to claim the revocation funds from KCDC. "We're very blessed to have the funds that we do."

One of the three original committee members stepping aside from their roles, outgoing Chair Deb Shannon said she'll "still be around." Secretary Tracey Savage is also moving out of the Secretary role, and Teresa Griggs stepped aside for her husband Tim to join. Tim and Chris join the committee of exisiting members, Trish Gee (Treasurer), Mikey Hurman and Claire Roper (Deputy Chair)

There are around 400 businesses in the Ōtaki and Te Horo catchment. ŌTHBA has 52 full members and 6 associate members. "We need to get more feet on the ground. We'd love to get more members on board," says Deb. "From the first of September there'll be another drive for new members."

ŌTHBA has their new Ōtaki Dollars initiative launching for the month of October. Anyone making a $20+ purchase at any participating Ōtaki or Te Horo business may win a spot prize; three purchases of $20+ may enter the Grand Prize Draw of $5000 to spend with any participating businesses – including online-only.

The AGM guest speaker, Greater Wellington Regional Councillor Penny Gaylor, acknowleged "the work of ŌTHBA for its collaboration among businesses, not competition." She also thanked the businesses' support of Ōtaki College, before reminding the gathering of the 18 Tūhono trains coming in three and half years. She emphasised the tourism feature of them being "the only ones of their kind in the Southern Hemisphere." The hybrid Tūhono trains are capable of switching from battery power to overhead electrified lines and are currently under construction in India by French company Alstom.

Only two and half years old, ŌTHBA was awarded Runner Up in the Rising Star category at the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards for Kāpiti last month.

Mikey attended the ceremony. "The awards ceremony was fantastic," he says. "It was an honour to witness all the wonderful people being celebrated for their enormous contributions to the community around Kāpiti. We feel very humbled to have received this award."

News in brief

Local groups to represent Kāpiti at airport awards

The Kilns at Te Horo and Ōtaki Surf Lifesaving Club will go on to represent Kāpiti at the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards finals later this year. The announcement was made at the 2026 Kāpiti Good Sorts and Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards last month. Hosted by Kāpiti Coast District Council in partnership with Wellington Airport, the event acknowledged individuals and groups whose generosity, service and leadership helps make Kāpiti a vibrant and connected district.

New ramp for skate park

A mini-ramp is moving to its new home in Ōtaki. Following discussions with the Ōtaki Community Board, the ramp will be installed at Haruātai Park, near the basketball court. With recently upgraded lighting at the park, local skaters can enjoy the facility well into the evening, making it easier to fit in a session after school or work. It is hoped the combination of the mini-ramp and improved lighting will create an exciting new space for the community to get active, build skills, and have fun.

Sustainable Spring

Sustainable Spring is coming with a great line-up of free and affordable workshops and events this September and October. Save on household energy costs, connect with others and get involved with local sustainability initiatives. The programme is a collaboration between Kāpiti Coast District Council and community, with more than 14 local organisations hosting events on a huge range of topics, including sustainable fashion, how to compost, growing kai and repairing household treasures. As part of Sustainable Spring a compost workshop will be held on Saturday 5 September at Māoriland. Learn how to get the best out of your organic scraps. The workshop includes demonstrations and a $40 voucher to go towards a composting system or collection service. For more information head to www.kapiticoast.govt.nz

Ōtaki Dollar$ is coming!

THIS OCTOBER...

Purchase wherever you see this symbol displayed at Ōtaki & Te Horo Businesses!

Spend $20 or more, lodge your receipt to win spot prizes.

Lodge 3 from 3 businesses and enter to win the grand prize!

$5000 ŌTAKI DOLLARS

to be won to be spent back with your chosen participating businesses!

Spend to win this October in Ōtaki and Te Horo!

Terms and Conditions apply
Ōtakidollars.com for more info!
FREE for your business to register - email: info@othba.com

POWERED BY ŌTHBA TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS Ōtaki MANAAKITANGA SMALL TOWN. BIG HEART.

Candidates respond to Ōtaki's housing issues

BY NIKKI PAPATSOUMAS

image: Tracey Hall

This year's Ōtaki electorate candidates, (l-r): Tim Costley, Sophie Handford, Melody Willis, Chee-Khiang (CK) Sng and Penny Gaylor.

The spotlight was on housing at a public hui with candidates for this year's general election held last month.

Around 100 people showed up for the hui held at the Ōtaki Memorial Hall's Gertrude Atmore Supper Room.

The packed event was hosted by the Ōtaki Public Housing Group, who say they are calling on political parties to commit to urgent action on public housing ahead of the 2026 election.

The hui gave locals an opportunity to hear from Green Party candidate Melody Willis, Labour Party candidate Sophie Handford, current local MP and National Party candidate Tim Costley, The Opportunity Party candidate Chee-Khiang (CK) Sng and NZ First candidate Penny Gaylor.

Candidates had a chance to outline their parties' policies and commitments for improving housing outcomes in the electorate at the event, which was chaired by leading housing researcher Aeron Davis.

Event organiser Tara D'Sousa from the Ōtaki Public Housing Group says community turnout was fantastic and it was great to see so many people interested in discussing housing issues across the region.

"It exceeded our expectations. It was the first candidate hui in Ōtaki and people are interested in who is standing and what they have to say and it was great to have representation from all parties."

Tara says housing supply does not match need. Kāpiti is a region that is under increasing housing pressure and Ōtaki experiences the highest housing stress in the electorate.

Almost 30 per cent of our wider Ōtaki hapori rent their whare, and there is a shortage of available rentals, limited public and community housing supply, and increasing pressure on whānau experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness, she says.

"The housing situation is bad for people who are trying to rent and some are resorting to sleeping rough.

"The chair kept the tone of the hui civilised, he had really good material and laid out the situation with housing in Aotearoa while being even-handed to all candidates."

Tara says the audience was engaged, and came prepared with plenty of insightful questions to put to candidates.

"One key question from the audience was "What are the numbers?" – the number of public houses, the number of rentals, the number on the housing register, and the number of "homeless"."

She says she and the group hope to continue to encourage housing to be at the forefront of conversations in the lead up to the general elections in November.

ŌTAKI MEDICAL CENTRE

"Together Improving the Health and Wellbeing of our Community."

Nurse clinics • Minor surgery • Sexual health
Immunisations • Annual diabetes reviews
Enhanced Care Plus • Prescriptions

2 Aotaki Street
phone: 06 364 8555
open: Monday to Friday, 8:45am – 5pm
closed: Saturday, Sunday and public holidays

CLV build GOAT house for Black Sheep

BY NIKKI PAPATSOUMAS

image supplied

Leon Viggars gets the framing up for the new goat house.

image supplied

Callista and Leon join Black Sheep staff in front of the new goat house.

A herd of rescued goats have a brand new shelter to enjoy thanks to a pair of local volunteers.

Husband and wife duo Callista and Leon Viggars, from local building company CLV Construction, recently completed the new shelter at Black Sheep Animal Sanctuary here in Ōtaki.

Black Sheep is a farm animal sanctuary, working predominantly with rescued ex-farm animals, with a primary aim to provide a refuge for abused, neglected and mistreated animals.

The shelter will provide a large communal shelter for the sanctuary's goats, giving them a warm, dry place to get out of the weather alongside the little individual houses they already have, says Black Sheep Manager Danny Gibbins.

But more than that, it will also double as an incredibly useful animal-care space for the whole sanctuary.

"Half is an enclosed shed that will function as our 'vet shed'," he says.

"We trim all 18 goats' hooves roughly every six weeks, and until now we've had to do that outside — which is pretty miserable for both us and the goats when it's raining.

"We'll now have a dry, sheltered space for hoof trimming, vaccinations, examinations and other medical treatments, as well as somewhere for visiting vets to work."

Danny says this side of the building can also be turned into an indoor pen if one of the sanctuary's larger animals becomes sick, elderly, or needs somewhere warm and sheltered to recover.

Callista says she and her husband Leon are huge animal lovers who always wanted to pick up some volunteer work in the community.

"So last year we reached out to Black Sheep. It was divine timing… they said they really wanted a goat shelter so we started to have conversations about the best way to do it.

"Black Sheep have been amazing to work for, they are lovely people. The whole experience was such a pleasure, they are doing such good work up there, they are really unsung heroes.

"All the animals have had some hard times but they now have this beautiful sanctuary, it's so peaceful," she says.

Danny says goats hate the rain and are naturally much better adapted to dry conditions.

Prolonged wet conditions can contribute to health problems, particularly issues with their feet such as foot scald and foot rot.

"Ours will happily spend their days outside when the weather is nice, but once it starts raining they're usually very keen to find somewhere dry," he says.

"They aren't currently without shelter — we build little individual houses for them from corrugated iron and timber, so they always have somewhere to get out of the weather.

"The new shelter will give them a much bigger communal space as well, with room for them to shelter together when the weather turns."

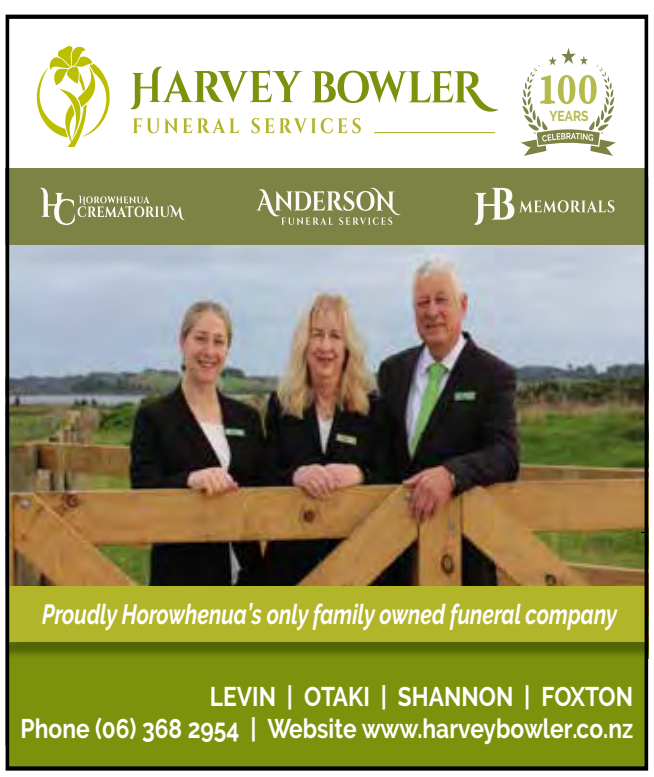
Danny says Callista and Leon's support means an enormous amount to the whole Black Sheep whānau.

"We're a charity with a small team and there is always far more work to do than we could possibly achieve by ourselves. When people volunteer their time, skills and labour, it allows us to take on projects like this that have a very real impact on the animals' lives.

"We feel really lucky to be so close to Ōtaki. It's such a lovely, community-minded place, and over the years we've had so much kindness and support from people in the area.

"There's something particularly special about seeing people use the skills they have to help animals who will never be able to repay them – it's a really tangible example of what community support can achieve."

To donate to Black Sheep Animal Sanctuary, head to www.theblacksheep.org.nz.



The Garden in September

BY VIVIENNE BAILEY

Flower garden

Plant new perennials, but take care with tender plants – it's best to wait till all danger of frost is over.

Continue planting dahlia tubers and gladioli corms for summer display.

Prolong blooming of early spring flowers, such as cineraria, pansies, poppies and primulas by liquid feeding and removing faded blooms. Check for caterpillars on your cinerarias and dust with derris dust if necessary.

Be vigilant with slugs and snails – protect young seedlings with Quash slug bait.

Feed your spring flowering bulbs with bulb food to ensure good blooms for next year.

Feed and mulch all roses, trees and shrubs.

This is still a good time to plant trees and shrubs, particularly camellias and rhododendrons.

Plant out violets and herbaceous plants.

Complete pruning of fuchsias.

Divide and replant primroses and polyanthus when flowering is finished.

Sow seeds and plant seedlings of ageratum, wallflower, Californian poppy, carnation, viscaria, begonia, celosia, gerbera, honesty, marigold, petunia, everlasting daisy, phlox, salvia, verbena, statice, sunflower, dianthus, aster, alyssum, nasturtium, gazania, geranium, impatiens, sweet-pea, coleus, cosmos, gypsophila and chrysanthemum.

Fruit and vegetable garden

Complete your vegetable garden preparation, digging in plenty of compost.

Plant out early-crop potatoes after sprouting, and earth up any earlier crops.

If you want waxy new season's potatoes for Christmas dinner, plant seed potatoes this month. 'Jersey Benne and 'Cliff's Kidney' are goodies.

Sow more peas and earth up and stake those already up.

Dwarf beans can be sown at the end of this month.

Plant or sow new asparagus beds.

Sow lettuces, leeks, cabbages, tomato, capsicum, courgette, eggplant and cucumber ready for transplanting later.

Transplant your summer vegetable seedlings into the garden: lettuce, cabbage, leeks, and silver-beet.

Finish onion planting and keep your hoe going between crops.

Plant citrus and fruit trees, and feed existing trees with citrus fertiliser – water in well.

Spray stone-fruit trees with copper to protect from leaf curl disease.

Lawns

Sow new lawns and feed existing ones with lawn fertiliser – water in well.

Mow and roll lawns regularly.

Second thoughts

September is an ideal time to repot and feed houseplants, and to plant hanging baskets and terracotta pots for summer display.

Watson's Garden Ltd

Summer strawberries are coming soon … we have lusciously sweet, high-yielding **Ventana** and ever-bearing **Monterey** varieties.

It's **avocado** season and a great time to get growing these popular and versatile fruit trees. We have four varieties for you to choose from: **Bacon, Reed, Fuerte** and new **Hass** stock arriving soon.

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

Monday – Saturday, 9am – 5pm | closed Sundays and public holidays.

17 Bell Street Ōtaki (06) 364 8758

www.watsonsgarden.co.nz

Growing peas

Peas are a great vegetable for in-between seasons. They don't need warm temperatures to germinate and grow – you just need to time planting, dodging frosts when they're flowering and while pods are starting to develop. With a huge range of varieties, and sowing at about fortnightly intervals, you can have a constant supply of green peas throughout the growing season.

Peas grow easily from seed and, as a bonus, boost soil nitrogen levels. They don't need the soil fertility that gross feeders such as broccoli and cabbage do, but they do need friable, free-draining soil rich in humus – dig in plenty of well-rotted compost before sowing.

Choose a sunny spot with reasonable air movement. Although peas like plenty of moisture, they're not keen on day after day of rain – damp, cloudy weather makes them vulnerable to fungus disease.

Avoid hot or very humid weather when sowing. Sow after the last of autumn's hot weather or at least two months before summer heat sets in.

To aid even and rapid germination, you can soak seed overnight before sowing or give the ground a good watering after sowing.

Sow dwarf peas 4cm apart in rows about 30-50cm apart – allow more space for climbing peas (so plants get plenty of air and light), and to give room for picking. Don't over-water once the soil is fully damp after planting as it may rot germinating seeds.

Keep seedlings weed-free with weeding or hoeing and protect plants if birds are a problem – watch out for slugs and snails also.

Support plants so they're not scrambling on the ground – they won't develop properly and will also be more susceptible to fungal diseases. Growing tall types up a ring of stakes tied at the top; tepee style is a good option.

Harvest when pods swell but don't let them get too big and fat – the peas inside will get tough and starchy. They generally take 60-80 days to harvest from sowing.

Daily picking will lighten the vine and prolong harvest. The younger you pick your peas, the better your plant will crop.

When your crop has finished, compost foliage or use it to mulch around another crop. You can also use spent plants to make liquid fertiliser by putting them in a container of water and leaving for a few weeks – dilute this brew before using on other crops.

For shelling peas, the early dwarf heavy cropper "Earlicrop Massey" is a good variety to try, and "Novella," which produces its pods at the top of the plant, making for easy picking.

For those who enjoy little peas (petit pois) there is "Petite Provencal," a quick maturing French heirloom. Use the flat pods like snow peas or use as shelled baby peas – its tendrils are also sweet and tasty.

Mange tout peas include the snow or Chinese peas and sugar peas. Snow peas have flatter pods and are eaten at the flat pod stage before the peas inside have started to swell. Sugar peas have more rounded, fleshy pods, and are eaten when the shape of the tiny round pea is starting to show through the pod.

"Goliath" is a vigorous climbing snow pea, slow to get stringy, and "Climbing Sugarsnap" produces fleshy pods that are sweet and crisp.

Something different to try is asparagus pea, a quick-growing, weed-smothering plant that grows like clover, and has brilliant-red, ornamental flowers. Their tasty pods combine the flavour of asparagus and peas, are harvested when about 3cm long, and are used like mange tout peas.

NEW SEASON'S ROSES AVAILABLE NOW!

Austin Wonder

Fashion Scents

Ginger Kisses

We have 1000s of beautiful roses ready to plant for colour and fragrance.

• Standard roses • English roses • Climbing roses & many more

SOUTH PACIFIC ROSES
SPECIALIST GROWERS
OPEN 7 DAYS

1179 State Highway 1, Ōtaki
Phone: (06) 364 8797
Open Mon – Sat, 10am – 4pm
Closed Sundays till further notice
www.southpacificroses.co.nz

Commemorating Suffrage Day

BY NIKKI PAPATSOUMAS

image: Nikki Papatsoumas

The plaque and stone marking the planting of camellias in Haruātai Park to commemorate the centenary of women's suffrage in Aotearoa New Zealand in 1993.

With Suffrage Day just around the corner locals are being reminded of the importance of using their voice and exercising their right to vote.

On 19 September 1893, New Zealand was the first country in the world to allow women the right to vote in parliamentary elections.

Ōtaki local Sue Barrett says with a general election just around the corner it's more important than ever to commemorate our suffragettes.

"It's about remembering the date, the anniversary of when women gained the right to vote," she says.

"It is something to celebrate… especially in an election year. It's easy to fall into the trap that politics is too hard and feeling like your voice isn't significant.

"But you can make a difference, as they made a difference back then."

To commemorate the event, a group of Ōtaki women including Sue, will host a small get-together at the Senior Citizen's Hall.

"It's a simple event. It's a cup of tea, cup of soup, and a few local women celebrating Suffrage Day."

Sue says there will also be an exhibition of material prepared for previous Suffrage Day celebrations by the Ōtaki Museum. This will include the names of those who signed the petition and the Ōtaki women who signed the petition and were involved back then. The event is not politically affiliated in any way.

"We need to celebrate the day and make gratitude for those feisty women, stay mindful and enrol to vote. By people coming together and collaborating they can make a change."

Locals are also encouraged to visit the centenary memorial stone at Haruātai Park, Ōtaki, to commemorate Suffrage Day.

The event to celebrate Suffrage Day will take place at the Senior Citizen's Hall, 23 Rangatira Street, Saturday 19 September at 11am.

To find out more about enrolling to vote, or to make sure your details are up to date, head to https://vote.nz/

New waiata Māori *Te Riri o Tāwhiri*

BY PHILLY KINGSFORD-BROWN

image supplied

Te Riri o Tāwhiri is a new waiata reo Māori for tamariki that shares the whakapapa of Matariki through kōrero tuku iho. The waiata takes listeners on a journey alongside the atua Tāwhirimātea, exploring the story of Matariki.

Created with tamariki and whānau in mind, the waiata brings together mātauranga Māori, music and storytelling to share this kōrero in a way that is engaging and accessible for the next generation.

The song was created in collaboration with Kayde Titapu Warahi, a youth worker and kaiwaiata based in Ōtaki; Maizy Metekingi, a kaiwhakaari who grew up in Ōtaki; and J Westrupp, a musician and music producer from Lower Hutt.

The accompanying music video brings the story to life through a combination of filmmaking and animation, created in collaboration with Charlie Higgison of Runner Films and Eric Cresswell, an animator from the Hutt Valley.

This kaupapa has been made possible through the collective mahi, knowledge, creativity and support of many people and organisations.

A huge mihi to NZ On Air for funding this kaupapa, and to Mark and Dianne Kopua for generously sharing their mātauranga. Thank you to Maizy Metekingi for your contribution and for bringing your voice to this waiata; Charlie Higgison for bringing the music video to life; Eric Cresswell for your amazing animation; and J Westrupp for your musical expertise and contribution to the waiata.

We also acknowledge Te Reanga Ipurangi Ōtaki Education Trust, Te Kura-ā-Iwi o Whakatupuranga Rua Mano, Te Mauri Hā, Hori, Kararaina Carroll, Merle Metekingi and Robert Cooper for your support and contribution to this kaupapa.

Otirā, he mihi ki ngā tāngata katoa i poipoi i tēnei kaupapa.

***Te Riri o Tāwhiri* is available to listen to on Spotify and the official music video is available to watch on YouTube. Search "Kayde Titapu" on both platforms to listen and watch.**

Carefully consider vendor warranties

BY FLEUR HOBSON

If you are planning on selling a property you need to make sure that you both understand and carefully consider the vendor warranties you are making in the agreement for sale and purchase.

Vendor warranties are the promises you make to the buyer about the property being sold.

By far the most common agreement for sale and purchase in New Zealand is the standard agreement prepared by the Auckland District Law Society and Real Estate Institute of New Zealand.

This contains a series of warranties you are making as the property seller.

You are affirminng that you have not received any notice or demand from any government authority, tenant or any other party affecting the property.

This warranty would include things like receiving a letter from your neighbour requiring you to contribute to the cost of a fence, or a notice from a tenant requiring you to undertake repairs, or a notice from Council to fix part of your property.

If you think a notice you have received may affect the property it is better to disclose it.

One warranty often overlooked by sellers is that the chattels included in the sale are in reasonable working order. It means all chattels must be working on the settlement date. It is common now for purchasers to test all chattels on a final inspection of the property, and things that are broken or not working properly can allow the buyer to claim for compensation.

If any chattels included in the Sale Agreement do not work, or do not fully work, this should be expressly stated in the agreement.

There is a warranty that all chattels provided are unencumbered – so not subject to finance or security of a third party.

The warranty affirms that where any work has been undertaken, the appropriate permits or consents were obtained and the works were completed in accordance with those permits or consents (and a Code of Compliance certificate was issued, if appropriate).

Any works to the property undertaken without a consent should be disclosed to the buyer and recorded in the agreement.

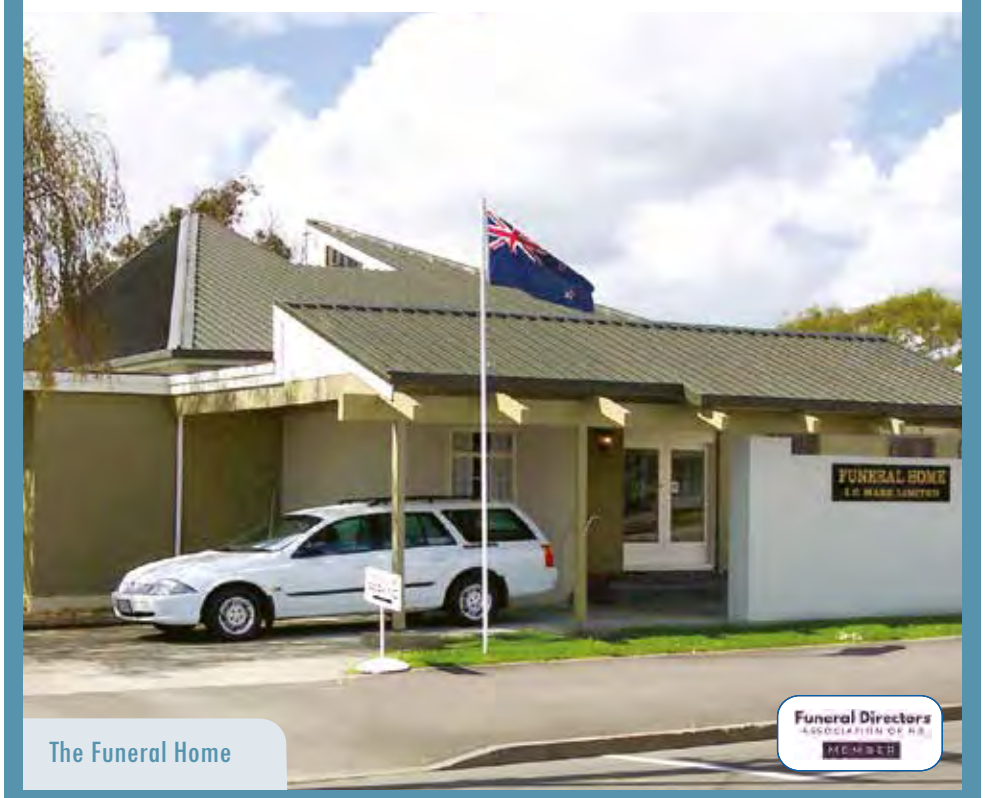
The sale agreement has numerous other warranties in it.

We recommend you obtain legal advice before signing a sale agreement to ensure you can comply with all the warranties in the agreement, and if you can't, to ensure the warranties are appropriately amended.

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

HOBSON MILLS LAW
INCORPORATING SUSIE MILLS LAW
phone 06 364 7190 282 Mill Road, Ōtaki

I.C.MARK LTD
Serving the Local Community since 1972
FUNERAL DIRECTORS



The Funeral Home
0800 426275 ~ (06) 368-8108
545 - 547 Queen Street East, Levin
The Avenue Crematorium, Levin
www.icmark.co.nz

Ōtaki kura collaborate on dune restoration

BY TRACEY HALL

image: Tracey Hall

Students from Ōtaki School and Ōtaki College plant spinifex together in the Waitohu foredunes.

Ōtaki School and Ōtaki College tauira / students collaborated with the Waitohu Dune Care Group, 5 August. Together they planted around 250 spinifex in the foredunes to help retain and grow the sand dunes.

Lynda of the Waitohu Dune Care Group – who also meet every Monday – says she really values their hands-on learning. "I just love seeing them do this.

New to Ōtaki School this year and first time at the dune planting, 10-year-old Eden says she likes, "just the planting itself, putting the [fertiliser] tablets in and then planting."

The Ōtaki School tauira are part of Akoranga Tūwaho, who take it in turns to learn in te taiao / the natural world every Wednesday. Four groups of 10 Year 5 and 6s explore te taiao and participate in group plantings, such as the one with the dune care group.

Thanks to generous local sponsorship, the Ōtaki School tauira have coveralls and gumboots so they can be out in all weathers. "We go out rain, hail or shine," says Kaiawhina Bex Cowan.

"We're so lucky to be able to do this," says Bex. "We connect with groups who are already doing the mahi. We just give our time – that's easy." Bex is supported by Kaiawhina Beau Child to lead Akonga Tūwaho.

Bex and Beau regard this kind of learning as essential for wellbeing – a sense of connection and belonging. While planting at the dunes, Bex tells the tauira, "Next time you come down here, you can tell your friends and whānau you helped do this."

With a new 17-seater school van, the Ōtaki School tauira can explore Ōtaki and beyond. Recently, they assisted with a 2000-seedling planting at Edgewater, Waikanae, alongside tauira from Kapakapanui and Waikanae Schools.

Bex says, "We have grown over time, supported by Tumuaki Rauru Walker, our amazing kaiako and school whānau, who recognise the benefits of learning in taiao for our tamariki."

The Year 12 and 13 tauira from Ōtaki College helped provide the tuakana in the tuakana–teina model of older ones supporting younger ones with learning. Leo, Andrew and Levi have plenty of planting experience through their mahi in the māra at Ōtaki College alongside Kaiawhina Rosa Yates.

Eleven days later, a community planting day in the foredunes saw another 1450 spinifex planted.

If you'd like to join or help the Waitohu Dune Care Group, phone 020 459 6321.

If you'd like to support or sponsor Akoranga Tūwaho, email: bexcowan@otaki.school.nz

HELP US MAKE OUR LOCAL ROADS SAFER

We're preparing a new Speed Management Plan for Kāpiti.

The plan sets out 14 proposed speed changes and 49 infrastructure safety improvements for local roads from 2027–30 and beyond.

This includes measures like:

- safer speeds near schools
- minor changes to some speed limits
- safer places for people to cross the roads
- traffic calming near recreation areas
- infrastructure changes such as speed humps, pedestrian refuges and raised crossings.

Small changes can make a big difference – preventing serious injuries and ultimately saving lives.

If you walk, bike, scooter, drive, or have accessibility needs, we want to hear from you.

Have your say by Tuesday 15 September
Complete the submission form online
Haveyoursay.govt.nz/SpeedManagementPlan

HAVE YOUR SAY

Kāpiti Coast DISTRICT COUNCIL
Me Huri Whakamuri, Ka Titiro Whakamua

Ōtaki College

KIA KAHA

September 2026

From the Acting Principal

Matua Andy: Matua Andy Fraser will be away for the final six weeks of Term 3, travelling abroad, including a visit to Robert Gordon's College in Scotland. This trip will strengthen ties and ensure the continued success of the reciprocal Carlyle Everiss Scholarship, which enables a Year 13 ākonga from our Ngā Ringa Whero leadership team to travel to Aberdeen, Scotland.

During Matua Andy's absence, I will be serving as Acting Principal.

Term 3: Mā te kimi ka kite, Mā te kite ka mōhio, Mā te mōhio ka mārama – Look, seek, and knowledge will come. We encourage all ākonga to seize every opportunity this term to reach their goals and succeed.

Term 3 is a vital academic term for all our ākonga. Whether they are completing NCEA qualifications or building foundational skills in the junior school, this term offers every student the opportunity to showcase their hard work and reach their full potential.

Upcoming Examinations & Corequisites: Derived Grade examinations took place in Week 5. These exams serve as crucial replacement grades for final assessments should any unforeseen circumstances impact an ākonga or their whānau. Later in the term, during Weeks 8 and 9, we will hold the second round of NCEA Literacy and Numeracy corequisite exams. For students in Year 10 and above who have not yet achieved these corequisites, we strongly recommend regular home revision or taking full advantage of our lunchtime and after-school support sessions.

Attendance & Ministry Requirements: Attendance at kura in 2026 continues to trend upward despite seasonal illness, and we extend our sincere thanks to whānau and caregivers for ensuring our young people arrive ready to learn each day. Academic achievement directly correlates with regular attendance, and these daily efforts are reflected in strong progress across the school. If your tamariki or rangatahi are absent, please notify the school office promptly or provide a medical certificate to help us meet prescribed Ministry of Education reporting requirements.

Year 13 Excellence: Haere taka mua, taka muri; kaua e whai – Be a leader; not a follower. By demonstrating responsibility and courageous leadership, ākonga seize the opportunities at kura to forge their own paths rather than following others. In doing so, they create positive pathways for those who come behind them.

I chose this whakataukī to acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding efforts of our Ngā Ringa Whero leadership team and our Year 13 cohort. These students are truly making the most of their final year at Ōtaki College, setting a high standard in both attendance and academic achievement. In doing so, they have established a benchmark of leadership and service for future student leaders to follow. Well done to you all.

Staffing Update At the end of Term 2, our Business Manager, Cindy Hall, departed Ōtaki College to take up a new position at Whangārei Boys' High School. Having served our school community for two years, Cindy relocated to be closer to her father. We sincerely thank her for her contributions and wish her all the best. At the start of Term 3, we were pleased to welcome Karen Noffke as our new Business Manager, joining us from Mount Albert Grammar School.

School Uniform Update: Beginning in 2027, school uniforms will be sold directly through The Warehouse. For the remainder of 2026, remaining uniform stock will be sold at cost price directly from the school office.

Matua Hamish Wood, Acting Principal

Arnyah McLeod, 2026 recipient of the Stuart and Mary Pritchard Spirit of Adventure Scholarship, writes about her voyage:

From 24 June to 4 July 2026, I and 39 other rangatahi found ourselves on a boat with the same fear of the unknown. For us in the ocean, the unknown was the life-changing opportunity to be part of Voyage #946 on the *Spirit of New Zealand*. On this voyage we navigated a loop around the Hauraki Gulf, spent two nights at Aotea/Great Barrier Island, and spent time on the surrounding bays, trying to hide away from the weather. My favourite spot that we visited was an afternoon at Smokehouse Bay, it was a nice hidden-away spot that we rafted to and where I spent my 18th birthday! Even while it was challenging at times, this experience was a privilege and one of the coolest things I've ever done. It wasn't just a trip of learning how to sail, but an opportunity to be part of a team of so many incredible rangatahi and to learn more alongside them about leadership and teamwork.

Our days followed strict routines, with 6:30am wake-ups and a plunge in the freezing ocean, with only 4 seconds of warmth under the hot-water spray, then we'd rush below deck to change and get ready for the day. We'd eat breakfast straight away and then lights would flicker and we'd assemble on the aft deck for colours, which is a military-style morning ceremony to start the day. We'd then move to our assigned watch responsibility and clean our areas which consist of the mizzen, main, midship and foredeck. Once our respective areas were clean we had a quick break and, depending on the weather, we would sail. Our afternoons were usually filled with team-bonding and group activities; after dinner we'd play games with the mates before lights out.

Arnyah McLeod aboard the *Spirit of New Zealand* on voyage #946.

On the boat we had what was called comfort, stretch and panic zones. During our voyage I faced many challenges that pushed through all of them, including the panic zone! From partially climbing the mast, to navigating night watches, rafting long distances, early-morning swims, rope swings, hikes and building new relationships, every activity required trust and communication within myself and my watch group. Even though this experience pushed me out of my shell, so many positives came out of this opportunity. I developed my leadership and teamwork skills, gained more confidence with myself, met so many fellow rangatahi from across the country and made new friends that I'll always share this unique experience with.

I'm so grateful to have had this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

I want to express my gratitude to Stuart and Mary Pritchard for their generous scholarship, which made this incredible journey possible. This experience has truly inspired my growth as a leader and a member of our community.

Ōtaki College students are welcomed to Whanganui City College, in August, for the annual sports tournament.

Ōtaki College Retains Shield in Spirited Whanganui Exchange

Ōtaki College students demonstrated exceptional talent and sportsmanship this month as they travelled to Whanganui for the annual sports exchange with Whanganui City College. On 5 August 2026, a contingent of approximately 60 students made the trip north to compete across several codes, carrying with them the pride of the College.

The day was marked by high-quality competition and a fantastic atmosphere. After a series of closely contested matches, Ōtaki College is proud to announce that they have successfully retained the exchange shield for another year.

The athletes delivered strong performances across junior and senior levels. The senior teams led the charge with victories in Netball, Football, and Ki o Rahi. While the junior Ki o Rahi team faced a tough loss, the junior basketballers secured a decisive win to keep the momentum in Ōtaki's favour.

ŌC Pride in Sportsmanship

Beyond the scoreboard, the behaviour of the Ōtaki students was a highlight of the trip. The group represented the College with distinction, displaying great sportsmanship and positive conduct throughout the day.

Special thanks must go to the staff and coaches – Marcia, Sam, Te Tahi, Katera, Tash, and Coach Atu – whose support was instrumental in making the trip such a success.

We also extend a heartfelt thank you to Whanganui City College for their warm hospitality and the wonderful manaakitanga shown to our students throughout the day. Your support made the exchange a truly memorable experience.

Kirsty Doyle, Director of Sport

Arts & books

image: Tracey Hall

Te Wā o Puanga at Ngā Wawata

BY TRACEY HALL

Woven works by the Year 1 and 2 akonga / students of Te Wānanga o Raukawa were on display in *Te Wā o Puanga* in Ngā Wawata, the exhibition area in the foyer of the Ōtaki Library.

Ākonga are working toward a three-year Poutuarongo Toi Whakarākai / Bachelor of Design and Art, specialising in Raranga-Whatu / Weaving, but can also graduate with a diploma after one year.

As well as learning the tikanga, processes and research around Māori woven taonga, ākonga also undertake papers in te reo Māori, and iwi and hapū studies.

Many of the ākonga are doing the course remotely, but the *Ōtaki Mail* was lucky enough to meet with them – along with their tutors – while they were in Ōtaki for one of their quarterly five-day noho/stays.

Ākonga from all year groups noho together to share their works and experiences, and to awhi / support one another with the more challenging aspects of raranga.

Course administrator and tutor, Hinepūororangi Tahuparae says, "It's a tuakana–teina model, but we're all learning from each other. Sometimes a first-year student might be doing something in a way none of us has seen or thought of."

Hine is joined on campus by course administrator and tutor Tracey Patete and tutor Ezra Bevan. Pūkenga Matua Karl Rangikawhiti Leonard was also in Ōtaki for one of his twice-monthly visits to support the ākonga and assess their work. He modestly says his role "is to fill the knowledge gaps."

The display of ākonga works at Ngā Wawata brings their creativity into a public space. It's the first time for many of the ākonga to be exhibiting and it allows for the wide range of library users to view the works. The raranga exhibited was by ākonga whose creations had already been marked.

KCDC Libraries Hub Lead Ōtaki Te Kaiārahi Pokapū ki Ōtaki Maia Whiterod says, "It's a real celebration for us. We've been working together with Te Wānanga o Raukawa for three years now. It's really nice for us to have them exhibiting in this space."

For those who missed the month-long exhibition, more raranga will be on display during Te Rā Whakapūmau / Graduation Day, 3 and 4 December, at Te Wānanga o Raukawa.

For more information about Toi Whakarākai study at Te Wānanga o Raukawa, email: tewharekokiri@twor-otaki.ac.nz, or phone 0800 926 2642 / 06 364 9011

Upcoming events:

- **Book launch: Abbi Letteri, *Pefectly Themselves: Horses in the Human World.* Friday 18 September, 6pm, Gertrude Atmore Supper Room, rsvp: otaki@booksandco.co.nz**
- **Andrew London band, *Retro Pack '50s Rock'n'Roll Night*, Civic Theatre, Monday 28 September, 7:30–10pm. Tickets at Eventfinda.**
- ***Mary Poppins Jnr* at The Civic, 7–10 October. Tickets at Trybooking: Mary Poppins JR**
- **Kāpiti Art Trail 2026, 24–26 October and 31 October – 1 November.**

image: Tracey Hall

Talented multi-instrumentalist quartet the Raven Mavens were welcome guests at the Stationhouse Social Club, 20 August. On their release tour, of *Sister Time*, the Raven Mavens played the album in its entirety, moving effortlessly between instruments. They were joined by The Salty Hearts for a "mash up" of four songs at the end of the evening.
In its eighth year, the Stationhouse Social Club includes two live bands and a two-course meal for $60, and is held at the Ōtaki Golf Club every two months.The next is 15 October, with Irish-inspired pair the Parcel of Rogues. Message Station House Social Club on Facebook for info.

Waitohu School poetry open mic night

Kody Howland, Yr 4, reads his poem to the crowd.

Waitohu School whānau enjoyed the poetic talents of their tamariki in the packed-out school hall Te Whare Aroha, 5 August.

Principal Maine Curtis says, "Observing the ideas, bravery, humour, joy and aroha on display was a real treat."

The evening was supported by former Waitohu School student Renee Winton, who introduced each young poet.

After all the students who'd chosen to share their poetry had finished, certificates were presented to those poets whose poems were judged 1st, 2nd and 3rd within each year level.

A very special ngā mihi nui was given to Books & Co, Ōtaki, for reading and judging all the students' poetry prior to the event.

Ōtaki Pottery Club awarded

Last month, the Ōtaki Pottery Club (ŌPC) was awarded Arts & Culture Runner Up at the 2026 Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards for Kāpiti.

Club President Caitlin Taylor says, "We are delighted to receive the Arts & Culture Runner Up award. It is wonderful recognition for a club that has been bringing people together through creativity, learning and a shared love of ceramics for almost four decades.

"This award reflects the contribution of our many volunteers, tutors, committee members,and members, whose enthusiasm and commitment continue to make the club such a vibrant and welcoming community.

"We are incredibly proud of what we have achieved together and are grateful to everyone who has contributed to the club's success over the years."

The September exhibition at ŌPC is *Lighten Up!* – works by Storm Davenport and Jennifer Verity – followed by members' group exhibitions during the months of the Kāpiti Art Trail and the build-up to the club's annual Festival of Pots and Garden Art at Anam Cara, 21–25 January 2027.

Lamp base by Jennifer Verity.

image supplied

Visitors to the latest exhibition at the Ōtaki Museum, *Te Tāone o Ōtaki 1920–1989*, may notice a mannequin wearing a white dress and red wool cape! For some, this clothing will be easily recognisable, for others not so much. This uniform was the type worn by nurses and midwives working at the Ōtaki Maternity Hospital on Mill Rd.

The hospital opened its doors in August 1945. It grew out of the Cottage Hospital that had been damaged by fire earlier that year. The restored and modernised building changed its focus to solely provide maternity care for women in the local area. This decision was heavily influenced by the 1938 legislation giving free hospital deliveries for all women with an additional 14 days' rest in hospital post birth. Consequently, hospital-based maternity care was in demand across New Zealand.

During the 1970s and 80s, Gloria Johnston was the matron of the hospital. Her wholistic, wrap-around approach placed family and community central to care of women and their babies. Women who had their children at the hospital described a relaxed and supportive environment. Babies were kept in the nursery at night and brought to mothers when they woke up for feeding. The hospital worked in the best interests of women, encouraging bonding by advocating breast-feeding and lots of mother-baby contact. Families were encouraged to be involved and, while visitors were mostly restricted, a flexible approach was evident.

Although it was a small hospital, most babies born in Ōtaki were born there. Despite various attempts to close its doors, outcry from the community meant that the hospital continued to serve the women and babies for another 50 years, eventually closing in 1992. After that, a 48-hour birthing service and community health centre operated from the building until 1995. The centre was then leased to the newly established Ōtaki Community Health Trust with the lead tenant the Ōtaki Women's Health Centre providing a range of health services. These groups are no longer operating; however, the building still stands and is used by local groups.

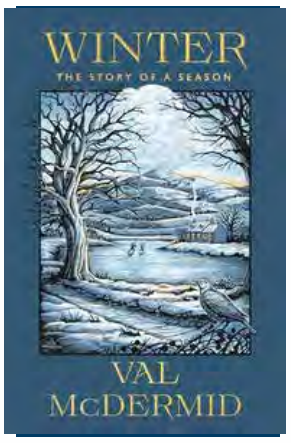
ŌTAKI HERITAGE
Te Whare Pouhere Taonga o Ōtaki

Ngā Arotakenga Mai i Te Whare Whakamātau o Ōtaki

Ōtaki Library Hours:

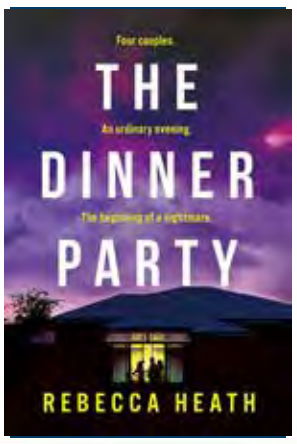
Mon-Tue: 9am-5pm
Wed: 10am-5pm
Thu-Fri: 9am-5pm
Sat: 10am-4pm

Winter :The Story of a Season - Val McDermid



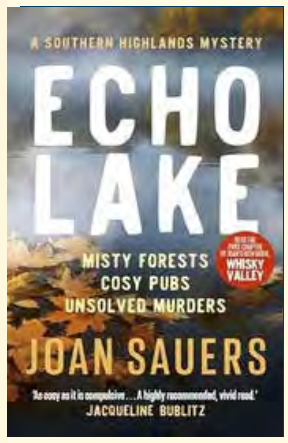
Val McDermid, the writer of thrillers, has now written a book of essays on winter, looking at her community's traditions, her childhood and her own feelings about the icy season in Edinburgh.
It's the time of the year she collects up her notes and starts on a new novel, makes soup and goes ice skating.
There are beautiful illustrations and she finds warm things to brighten up the day while waiting for the cold to pass.
REVIEWER: Anne - Ōtaki

The Dinner Party - Rebecca Heath



Four couples—friends and neighbours—gather for their usual dinner party, leaving their children safely tucked in bed. It's a quiet, secure neighborhood. But later that evening, Frank Callahan checks on his daughters and discovers that baby Megan is missing. The story unfolds as a slow burn, occasionally feeling sluggish, but the suspense and need to uncover Megan's fate kept me hooked. Once I got used to the pace and multiple characters, I found myself enjoying this tense, layered thriller.
REVIEWER: Debbie- Ōtaki

Echo Lake - Joan Sauers



Researcher, Historian and reluctant intuitive Rose McHugh, moved from Sydney to the Southern Highlands of NSW for a new start and quiet life. After finding an undeveloped film buried in the garden of her quaint little cottage, she goes against the advice of a suave local detective, and is compelled to solve two murders and quite possibly her own.
Well written, with vivid word pictures and multi faceted characters, the plot twists keep you guessing until the end.
REVIEWER - Tamz - Ōtaki

Te Reo Towns

Ake, Ake, Ake - A Forever Language

14 to 21 Hepetema 2026
Te Wiki o te Reo Māori
Come along to Ōtaki Library and celebrate Te Wiki o te Reo Māori with us! Discover what's happening as we celebrate Te Reo Towns Ake, Ake, Ake – A Forever Language. Take a look at what's on display, explore activities and resources, and see how we're marking this special week at the library. Everyone is welcome to visit, take part, and enjoy Te Wiki o te Reo Māori celebrations.
Nau mai, haere mai, whakatau mai.

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

Kāpiti Coast DISTRICT COUNCIL
Me Huri Whakamuri, Ka Titiro Whakamua

What art where

Toi Matarau gallery, Māoriland Hub, has *Nō Tāukiuki, Long Ago* – an exhibition weaving worlds and whakapapa from Long Ago. 29 August – 26 October.

The **Tote Gallery**, Ōtaki Pottery Club, has *Lighten Up!* Paintings and ceramic sculptures by Storm Davenport and ceramic and woven harakeke lamps by Jennifer Verity. Opens 3 September, 5:30pm – all welcome – and runs until the end of September.

Ngā Wawata, Ōtaki Library, has regular, changing exhibitions of local history or works by local artists.

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 *Te Tāone o Ōtaki: Ōtaki Town 1920–1989.*

The HOЯI gallery has art + apparel.

Toi MAHARA has *Land, Women and Rangatiratanga*, in the Heritage Gallery, until November.

Zero Waste Ōtaki update

BY DAVE MACINTYRE

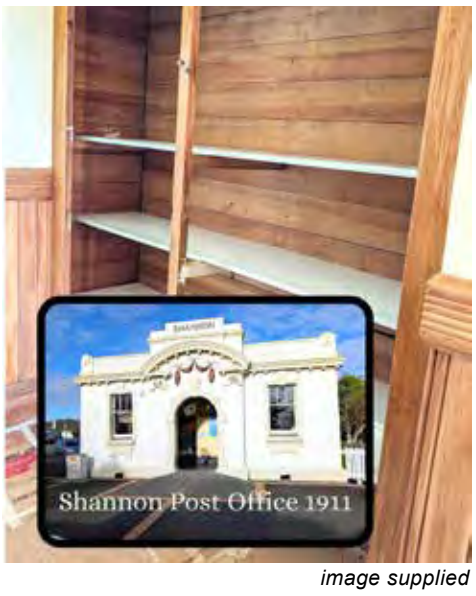


image supplied

Newly prepared shelving in the renovated Shannon Post Office, now a community health centre.

A "community helping community" initiative is seeing Zero Waste Ōtaki get behind the growth of the Te Puāwaitanga o Hanana Health & Wellbeing Centre in Shannon.

The Centre is renovating The Old Post Office Building at 66 Stout Street, where an administration office is now located along with social spaces plus rooms for confidential meetings.

Managed by Mereana Hemopo (better known as Auntie Mereana), the Centre offers fitness classes, craft skills, budgeting advice, employment consultancy, ladies' massage and Rongoa (Māori natural healing and wellbeing) among others. Most of the activities available are free or for koha.

"We are a group of like-minded volunteers of the Shannon community," says Mereana. "Our goals and aspirations are to support and provide social and health and wellbeing services to the community. The Old Post Office gives us a focal place to bring those activities to Shannon."

The group is gradually upgrading the old building to meet modern needs, in sympathy and with respect to the style of the building, which was opened in 1911. However, with a limited budget, the Centre relies on a lot of goodwill, and that's where Zero Waste Ōtaki comes in, supporting the idea of small-town generosity and contributions to achieve community goals.

Our stock of native woods has helped fit the profile of the shelving needed to upgrade the 115-year-old cupboard and make it suitable for modern use. The timber is being supplied as a koha, in recognition of the community ethic that inspires both the Centre and ZWŌ.

The Centre is open Monday to Friday 9am – 3pm and can be contacted on 021 0260 9109 including for bookings and transport assistance in attending classes. The Centre's activities can be found on their Facebook page and they can be contacted on 0210 230 2659.

ZWŌ recycles good-quality demolition timbers away from the landfill and direct to the public, from our woodyard next to the Ōtaki Transfer Station in Riverbank Road.

ZWŌ is open every Wednesday, 9.30–11 am and on the last Sunday of the month, 9.30am – noon. To keep up to date with what's new see the ZWŌ Facebook page.

Mayor's monthly column

BY MAYOR OF KĀPITI COAST JANET HOLBOROW

image supplied

It's been another month of swinging between focusing on local issues and talking about future changes to our Councils and potential mergers.

Local is always the priority, so I'll start there.

It was a cold and frosty morning as we gathered to bless the new housing development on Rangiuru Road. Ricki Baker led the blessing with support from Kim Tahiwi and other local Iwi representatives. Council staff, Kāpiti Housing Solutions and contractors also braved the cold to mark the special occasion.

The development is the first project for Kāpiti Housing Solutions, an Independent Trust set up by Council last year. Council was able to provide the land, and a Central Government Grant will cover construction of these quality affordable units.

On another note, congratulations to all the Ōtaki finalists and winners of our annual Good Sorts and Community Awards. Special mention to Ricki Baker, who was awarded the Mayoral Award.

Ricki's service to the Kāpiti Coast spans many years of selfless mahi and unwavering dedication. An uri of our three mana whenua iwi of the Kāpiti Coast – Ngāti Raukawa Au ki te Tonga, Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai and Ngāti Toa Rangatira – Ricki has served in education, in his role as Rātana minister, and has been a trusted source of wisdom and guidance across countless kaupapa.

The night also featured the Good Sorts Awards, recognising those who go out of their way for others and the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards winners were announced. The Art & Culture category was very much about the north of the district, with The Kilns at Te Horo winning the award, and Ōtaki Pottery Club Runner Up. Ōtaki Surf Lifesaving Club took out the Sports & Leisure category and the Te Horo Hall Society was Runner-Up in the Heritage & Environment category.

In other news, we wrapped up the first stage of our Long-term Plan consultation, which included a number of Ōtaki events. Thanks to everyone who came along and shared their thoughts as we progress this important work.

It's particularly important as we wait to hear a response from Central Government on the Wellington Region Headstart proposal for a single Unitary Authority for the Wellington Region. Kāpiti did not support the proposal, and we have sent a letter and alternative proposal to Ministers and others. We are also keeping the door opento conversations with our northern neighbours should that be a possibility.

In the meantime, we continue to plan, deliver, and celebrate in our community.

RYAN
Plumbing Gasfitting
• Residental • Wetbacks
• Commercial • Woodburners
• Solar Hot Water Systems
RYAN
Roofing
• New and re-roofing
• Longrun coloursteel
• P.V.C & Coloursteel Spouting
• Repairs and Maintenance
• Flashing Fabrication
• Sheetmetal Work
0272 436 451 06 362 6595
Manakau

Windows & Apple
Computer Support
Anti-Virus, MS Office
Tablets & Phones
New Systems, Upgrades
Migrations & Maintenance
Improve Wi-Fi Coverage
Backup & Recovery
Kapiti, Levin & Surrounding Areas
steve@techman.nz
022 315 7018
TechMan
YOUR TECHNOLOGY HERO

Ōtaki MP's report

BY MP FOR ŌTAKI TIM COSTLEY

image supplied

I've spent the last three years fighting hard for Ōtaki and our region. I've got more exciting news to share this month, which demonstrates the difference it makes having a local MP and a Government focussed on supporting towns and regions like Ōtaki.

This month, I'm really proud to share that I've secured a $529,035 boost through the DOC Community Fund, which is leveraging over a million dollars in co-investment to back nearly $1.6 million worth of conservation work right across the Ōtaki electorate.

Ngā Manu Nature Reserve has been selected to receive nearly $200,000 to upgrade enclosures for the captive breeding and management of the Nationally Endangered Whitaker's skink. Ngā Manu does extraordinary work protecting our most vulnerable native species, and this funding strengthens their ability to care for them for generations to come.

Up the road, the Wildlife Foxton Trust is receiving over $331,000 for essential pest and weed control at the Manawatū Estuary—a wetland of international importance and the highest-priority estuarine site in the lower North Island.

This is practical, local conservation in action, and sits on top of the funding we've already provided for Ōtaki River Cliffs protection.

These projects add to many other local ones. In the last month we've announced solar coming to the roofs of six local schools, and six new classrooms. This is on top of the new property funding that every school will receive. It's all about keeping costs down and freeing up more money to go directly into the classrooms and help students achieve their very best.

And we're taking that a step further for our senior students. We've announced nine new industry-led subjects for Years 12 and 13 students, starting in 2029. Developed alongside Industry Skills Boards, subjects like Applied Intelligent Systems, Construction and Built Environment, and Engineering Technology will sit alongside traditional pathways. It's all about connecting classroom learning directly to local jobs, trades, and careers, giving our kids clearer pathways, and giving employers confidence that the next generation has the skills New Zealand needs.

There are new electric trains coming to Ōtaki, the new expressway to Levin with a full interchange at Taylor's Road, and a new local cancer clinic. I'm proud of what we've delivered in the last three years and motivated to keep serving Ōtaki for the years to come.It's all part of fixing the basics and building the future.

Ōtaki Community Board

BY ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER SIMON BLACK

image supplied

Anyone needing proof that housing is an important issue in Ōtaki only needed to turn up to the Gertrude Atmore Supper Room last month for the election candidates' housing hui organised by the Ōtaki Public Housing Group.

The place was packed to the gunwales. Locals filled the room, the crowd overflowing into the corridor. And the message from the community was clear: we have a housing problem, and people want action.

According to statistics at the end of March, 138 Kāpiti households were waiting for social housing – 138 local people and families living with uncertainty, unable to find a secure place to call home. The greatest shortage is in one- and two-bedroom homes, leaving many older people, single people and smaller households waiting for housing that meets their needs.

But these statistics only tell part of the story. Many people not included in this number are living in garages, cars and overcrowded houses, or paying so much in rent that there is precious little left at the end of the week.

Candidates from National, Labour, the Greens, New Zealand First and The Opportunity Party were pressed on what their parties would actually do. We heard plenty of statistics and political positioning, but few concrete answers about the question that matters most: how do we get more homes built, particularly here in Kāpiti and Ōtaki?

We should also expect honesty about the numbers. Recent government changes to definitions may make the statistics look better, but they do not put a roof over anyone's head. Good policy begins with acknowledging the true scale of the problem.

The decisions that determine whether homes are funded, built and made affordable are political ones. At election time, we get to decide who makes those decisions and what priority they give to housing.

This year, the rules have changed. You must be enrolled to vote by midnight on Sunday 25 October; you can no longer enrol during the voting period.

Please don't wait until Election Day. Get enrolled now so you can make your vote count.

MAC ELECTRICAL

Air Conditioning
New Builds
Renovations
Test Tagging
Electrical Repairs

027 318 2910
hamish@macelec.co.nz
www.macelec.co.nz

WAIKANAE
FUNERAL HOME
& MEMORIALS

- Preplanning consultations
- Headstones, Plaques & Restoration work
- Personalised, memorable and meaningful services
- Fully qualified staff
- Grief support
- Kaitawa Crematorium & Chapel, located in Waikanae Cemetery

www.waikanaefuneralhome.co.nz
04 293 6844
info@wfhome.co.nz, 17 Parata Street, Waikanae

Handy folk to know

Health

AA	0800 229 6757
Cancer Support	06 367 8065
Ōtaki Medical Centre	06 364 8555
Plunket	06 364 7261
St John Health Shuttle	0800 589 630
Stroke Support	021 962 366
Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki	0800 685 364

Helplines

Alcohol Drug Helpline	0800 787 797
Depression Helpline	0800 111 757
Healthline	0800 611 116
Lifeline	0800 543 354
Mental Health Crisis	0800 653 357
Samaritans	0800 727 666
Victim Support	0800 842 846
Youthline	0800 376 633

Community Groups

Age Concern	0800 243 266
Amicus	021 153 1517
Birthright	06 364 5558
Bridge Club	021 885 514
Budgeting	06 364 6579
Citizens Advice	06 364 8664
Cobwebs Op-Shop	020 483 6300
Community Club	06 364 8754
Community Patrol	020 446 9278
Energise Ōtaki	027 4443015
Friends of the Ōtaki River	022 033 7321
Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda	027 683 0213
Genealogy	06 364 7263
Kāpiti Coast Grey Power	04 902 5680
Let's Sing	06 364 8731
MenzShed	06 364 8303
Ōtaki Dance Group	06 364 0608
Ōtaki Foodbank	06 364 0051
Ōtaki Heritage Museum	06 364 6886
Ōtaki Players	06 364 6491
Poetry in Ōtaki (PIO)	021 977 834
Ōtaki Pottery Club	06 364 8053
RSA	06 364 6221
Waitohu Stream & Dune Care	020 459 6321
Women's Club	otakiwomensclub@outlook.com
Zero Waste Ōtaki	028 8520 9936

Kids

Kids Market	022 616 5167
Mainly Music	06 364 7099
Scouting	06 364 8949
Toy Library	06 364 3411

Marriage celebrants

Annie Christie (& funeral)	027 480 4803
Dean Brain	027 756 2230
Penny Gaylor	027 664 8869

Roofers

JS Roofing	0800 577 663
Ryan Roofing	027 243 6451

Taxis

Ōtaki Shuttles	06 364 6001
Transport Tararua Ranges	027 262 4462

Vets

Ōtaki Veterinary Centre	06 364 6941
Vets on Riverbank	06 364 6942

Mowers & Engineering

MAC Engineering	021 156 7908
MES Kāpiti	06 364 5411
Riverbank Engineering	06 364 7444

Glaziers

Window & Door Repairs	06 364 8886
iGlaze	021 119 9164

Rest Homes

Enliven, Levin	06 349 1409
Ocean View, Ōtaki	06 364 7399

Electricians

CPRE - Callum Pearson	027 695 8925
MAC Electrical	027 318 2910
Paul Pearce Electrical	06 364 6146
Sparky Tom Ltd	027 699 3743
Washington's Electrical	027 958 0102

Concrete Work

Bevan Concrete	0274 466 592
Concrete Doctors	06 364 8634
Koastal Kerb	027 554 0003
Rasmac Contractors	0274 443 041

Estate Agents

Harcourts	06 364 5284
Kelly & Co	06 364 0404
Professionals	06 364 7720
Property Brokers	06 364 8350
Tall Poppy	027 443 2897

Funeral Directors

Harvey Bowler	06 368 2954
I.C. Mark Ltd	06 368 8108
Kāpiti Coast Funeral	04 298 5168
Waikanae Funeral Home	04 293 6844
Wgtn & Ōtaki Natural Burials	0800 326 752

Insurance

Futurisk Kāpiti	06 364 6123

Nurseries & Gardening

JoY Gardening Service	027 247 8121
Talisman Nursery	021 0246 4474
Te Horo Garden Centre	06 364 2142
The Perennial Garden Shop	021 329 408
Watson's Garden	06 364 8758

Kāpiti Coast District Council

Ōtaki Sevice Centre	06 364 9301
Toll Free	0800 486 486
Ōtaki Library	06 364 9317
Ōtaki Swimming Pool	06 364 5542

Lawyers

Hobson Mills Law	06 364 7190
Wakefields Lawyers	04 970 3600

Accountants

Agar Fenwick Ltd	06 364 8696
Hine Accountants Ltd	06 364 8077
PG Accountants	06 777 6069
Temperton & Associates Ltd	06 777 6001

Commercial Cleaning

Jamie's Cleaning	027 738 7111

Plumbers

Duke's Plumbing	022 543 8789
Henderson Plumbing	06 364 5252
Ryan Plumbing & Gas	027 243 6451

Auto

Central Auto Services	06 368 2037
Ōtaki Collision Repairs	06 364 7495
Ōtaki Motors	06 825 9199
SRS Auto Engineering	06 364 3322

Computers

TechMan	022 315 7018

Sports Clubs

Ōtaki Bowls & Pétanque	027 555 5291
Ōtaki Sports Club	027 327 1179
Rahui Football & Athletics	06 364 5980
Titans Swimming Club	otakitsc@gmail.com

Upholstery

Bec's Shed	022 308 1672

Storage

Ōtaki Secure Storage	0800 364 632

Justice of the Peace

Ōtaki Library, Mondays 10.30am – 12.30pm

ŌTAKI OP SHOP
23 Matene Street, Ōtaki
Monday – Saturday
ph 06 364 5524

Good, used clothing for sale

Baby clothing $1
Children's clothing $2
Adult clothing $4 (or as priced)
Adult shoes $3 - $5
Lots of bric-a-brac from $1
Assortment of antiques for sale

Thanks to Paul Pearce Electrical for supporting our shop.

Cobwebs Op-Shop
Main Street
Tuesday – Friday
10 – 4pm
Saturday
10 – 1pm
Currently in need of:
Children's clothing, toys & games

BEVAN CONCRETE PLACING LTD
Concrete Contractors
• Concrete Placing • Floors • Paths
• Driveways • Exposed Aggregates
ph. 0274 466 592
bevanconcrete@xtra.co.nz
QUALITY ASSURED

ŌTAKI LOCKSMITH
RANCHSLIDER & WINDOW REPAIRS
RANCHSLIDER: Wheels & Locks - TRACKS REPAIRED
WINDOW: Hinges replaced & new catches fitted
KEYS: cut LOCKS: repaired or new locks fitted
Phone Sam Whitt NOW
021 073 5955
Specialised repair

Window & Door Repairs
I fix all Doors, Windows & Conservatories
SAVE $$$$
WINDOWSEAL
Call Mike Watson
Free 0800 620 720
or Otaki 364 8886
Locks * Rollers
Handles * Stays
Glass * Leaks
Draughts * Seals
Find me at: www.windowseal.co.nz
Or like at: facebook.com/windowseal

Kapiti Bike Repair.nz
Pick-up and drop-off bicycle service for the Kāpiti region.
021 537 467
kapitibikerepair@gmail.com
Highly experienced bicycle mechanic Declan Cox also sells new bikes and parts, and retro parts, on DECOBIKES TradeMe shop.
* Services outside of greater Ōtaki incur a $10 transport fee.

Rasmac Contractors
Phone: 0274 443 041 or 0274 401 738
• Earthmoving / Aggregate
• Drainage Site Works / Section Clearing
• Driveway Excavation / Tarseal / Hot Mix
• Top Soil / Farm Roads

Funerals, your way
0800 326 752
Wellington and Ōtaki Natural Burials
www.ecofunerals.co.nz

Ōtaki Churches welcome you

BAPTIST
Cnr Te Manuao Road/Old SH1
Ōtaki
tel: 06 364 8540
Service: 10am

PRESBYTERIAN
249 Mill Road, Ōtaki
Rev. Peter L. Jackson
tel: 06 364 6346
Worship: 11am

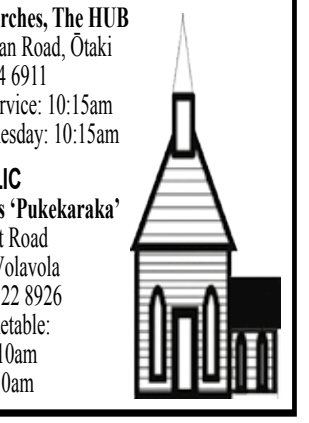
ANGLICAN

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 Rangiātea 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
St Mary's 'Pukekaraka'
4 Convent Road
Fr. Simi Volavola
el: 021 0822 8926
Mass Timetable:
Tue–Fri: 10am
Sunday: 10am



Ōtaki Boating Club reeling in the years

image supplied

Ōtaki Boating Club members at rear (l–r): Pete Crisp, Tim Spiller, Becky Spiller, Tony Martin, Blair Bregmen, Jandy Hughes, Dave Murray; front: Nathan Howell, Dave Duncan.

The Ōtaki Boating Club is celebrating its 20th anniversary this season.

The club provides members with access to launch tractors, bait and ice supplies, fishing competitions, local knowledge and practical support. For many, the club provides a far more affordable and enjoyable experience than boating alone.

"The Ōtaki Boating Club continues to improve its facilities through the generosity of volunteers and the support of local businesses whose sponsorship helps ensure the club remains a valuable community asset for future generations," says club Secretary Tony Martin.

"With a strong focus on family participation, water safety and community spirit, the club is looking forward to continued growth as it enters its third decade."

The new season begins 1 October 2026, and the club welcomes enquiries from prospective members and sponsors interested in becoming part of the Ōtaki Boating Club family. **Email: otakiboatingclub@gmail.com**

Ōtaki Surf Lifesaving wins for Kāpiti

BY ŌTAKI SURF LIFESAVING CLUB

image supplied

Junior Surf Coordinator Carrie Yaxley (centre) and Club Captain Marty Yaxley (right) accept the Sports and Leisure award on behalf of ŌSLC.

Ōtaki Surf Lifesaving Club (ŌSLC) has been recognised for its contribution to the local community, taking out the Sports and Leisure category at the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards for Kāpiti last month.

The awards recognise the work of community organisations across the region, with Ōtaki Surf Lifesaving Club among several deserving finalists in the category.

Club Chair Laura Bertelsen said the award was a reflection of the people who give their time to the club throughout the year.

"We're incredibly proud to receive the award. It's really recognition of all the volunteers, members and supporters who put so much into the club and our community," she said.

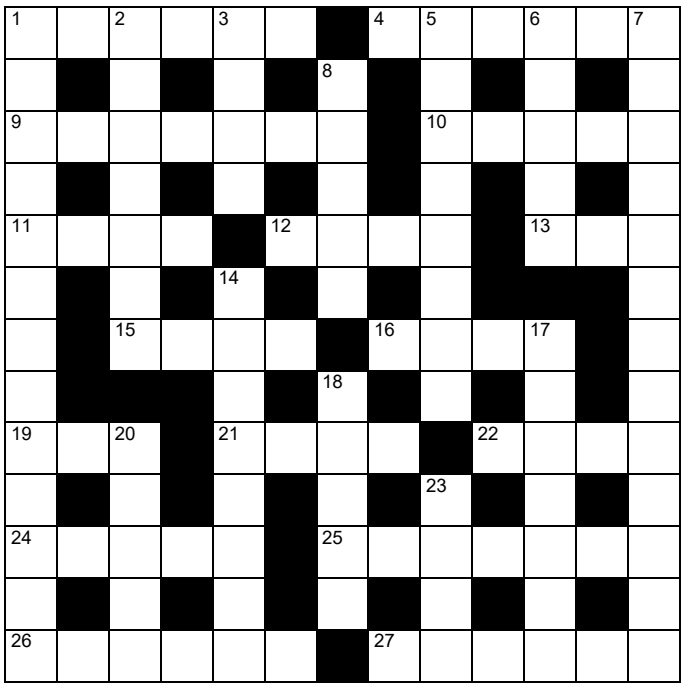
With summer approaching, the focus is already turning to training and preparing the club's patrol teams. A large Ōtaki contingent recently took part in an IRB development weekend, with members involved at examiner, instructor and driver-in-training levels.

Head IRB Instructor Ray Lenaghan said the weekend was a valuable opportunity for the club's developing drivers to gain experience in a range of conditions.

"It's great to see so many people putting their hands up to develop their skills. We've got a good mix of experience coming through, and the goal is to get these drivers ready to be part of the patrol team this summer."

The new IRB drivers will continue working towards their qualifications ahead of the summer patrol season.

If you are interested in joining the club you can contact otakisurfclub@gmail.com.



ACROSS
1. Reaping-hook (6)
4. Small cable, large rope (6)
9. Toasted cheese dish (7)
10. Scottish estate landowner (5)
11. Penname of Charles Lamb (4)
12. Air, manner, bearing (4)
13. Large deer (3)
15. A tramp (4)
16. Movie (4)
19. Droop (3)
21. Ill-favoured (4)
22. Husks of grain (4)
24. Not yet opened (flower, leaf) (2,3)
25. Leaving each other (7)
26. Alters with a view to improving (6)
27. Take amiss (6)

DOWN
1. Work as an apprentice (5,4,4)
2. County pasty (7)
3. Division of lungs, brain etc (4)
5. Ocean (8)
6. Glow, be bright (5)
7. Proverbially, sign of good weather (3,3,2,5)
8. Bad mark (5)
14. Existed in great plenty (8)
17. Slot receiving tenon (7)
18. Loses one's footing (5)
20. Triangle of wall beneath roof (5)
23. Branching structure (4)

ACROSS
1. With which to gather in the ill, the French conclude (6)
4. A line that was her entanglement (6)
9. An uncommon portion of cheese grilled in a dish (7)
10. Landed proprietor in Scotland the Right laid out (5)
11. Charles Lamb made a name for himself involving a lie (4)
12. Bearing one has when among people (4)
13. Deer caught in a reckless retreat (3)
15. How boy finishes off a tramp (4)
16. How to photograph a layer of dust (4)
19. Long detailed story, if not finished, will flag (3)
21. It was not nice to look at a romanticised duckling (4)
22. Incomplete marque of breakfast food (4)
24. Is not yet open to bid UN makes for it (2,3)
25. Occasion for farewells between locks? (7)
26. Removes faults and finishes by embracing me (6)
27. Begrudge being posted for the second time (6)

DOWN
1. One must, as an apprentice, be a slave to one's clock (5,4,4)
2. Rich son coming out of English county (7)
3. Earring may depend on its being pierced (4)
5. The pond or canal tit makes of it (8)
6. Polish will do very well (5)
7. One with a crook is delighted to see it, they say (3,3,2,5)
8. Dye that isn't a mixture of it (5)
14. Was plentiful as a nude bod could be (8)
17. Lock of a sort appears the more it's twisted (7)
18. Undergarments for perhaps three men in the field (5)
20. Part of the house to lag? Be unsure as to that (5)
23. It may fill the boot with ash (4)

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

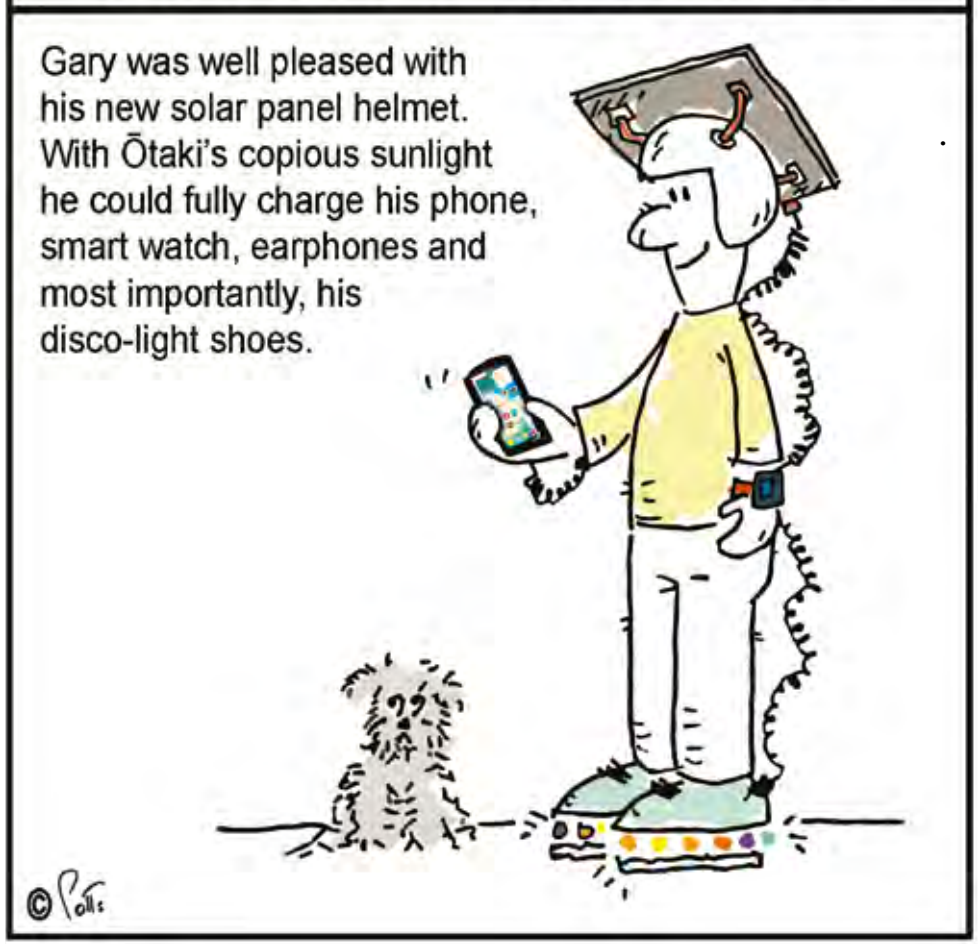
SUDOKU

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

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

ACROSS: 1. Sickle 4. Hawser 9. Rarebit 10. Laird 11. Elia 12. Mien 13. Elk 15. Hobo 16. Film 19. Sag 21. Ugly 22. Bran 24. In bud 25. Parting 26. Emends 27. Resent.
DOWN: 1. Serve one's time 2. Cornish 3. Lobe 5. Atlantic 6. Shine 7. Red sky at night 8. Stain 14. Abounded 17. Morrise 18. Slips 20. Gable 23. Tree

ŌTAKI MAIL MADNESS



Hiring Now! Kenopsia Ōtaki

Ōtaki Eye

Kenopsia Ōtaki is a new developrenarial venture with vague ideas for the future of our town, involving community, sustainability, 'telling our stories', and consulting someone sometime over something or other.
We are seeking an office all-rounder to take charge of day-to-day affairs and essentially run the company on a practical basis, while we're all busy doing, well, whatever it is we do.

You will: Be a solo mother with at least two children, one of them at pre-school. Have a postgraduate qualification and employment history in skilled, well-paid jobs.
Be desperate for social or intellectual stimulation as the mind-numbing repetition of early-age motherhood threatens to bring on anxiety and clinical depression.

We will: Pay you a teensy-weensy bit more than the minimum wage. Call you our 'office angel' on our Meet The Team link, but list you last, almost as an afterthought.

You will: Get paid a maximum 20-hours per week while working a minimum of 35-hours per week. Keep track of everything in our offices, take phone calls, handle enquiries, turn your hand towards accounts, payroll, website upkeep and maintenance, compose media releases, deal with deliveries and tradies, and act as a general secretary to anyone else in the office whose job title is a three-letter acronym. Regularly come up with innovative, practical ideas to improve workflow, productivity and efficiency in our systems.

We will: Adopt these ideas while paying you nothing extra, or else patronisingly dismiss them before adopting them in a marginally different form in six months' time, after you've quit.

You will: Develop an unhealthy reliance on your role, feel lucky to have any job at all in a small town, tell yourself the money's not great, but it's money, and Working for Families isn't cutting it while the kids' dad keeps contesting every child support payment. So you'll work even harder.

Until: Suddenly, one night, after five wines, you decide to quit.

We will: Nod, smile blankly, say, "Well, you've got to do what's right for you…"
Thank you with a card, flowers, chocolates and a $17 bottle of wine.
Be utterly lost in the weeks after you leave. Where are pens? What's the password to access my password? Who is getting me coffee? And why the hell is there a crane and roofing crew here? Rerun this advert.

If this sounds like you, then contact Sue, our priceless office angel – preferably before her last day this Friday. (Best of luck, Sue! Some Cleanskin pinot gris coming your way.) Next!

ARIZTO

INTRODUCING TEAM CHAR & LIDDY.

2% +GST Commission* No Upfront Costs
Premium Marketing No Sale, No Fee

Proudly supporting **Levin/Ōtaki**

Team Char & Liddy | **Char** 027 451 9319 | **Liddy** 029 120 0515

Arizto Ltd. Licensed REAA 2008 | *Admin Fee + T&C's Apply

SPORT

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

image: Tracey Hall

Whiti Te Rā Captain Manaia Osborne holds the teams' cup aloft.

Whiti Te Rā bring the cup home again

BY TRACEY HALL

Whiti Te Rā won the Wellington Rubgy League Premiership with a resounding victory over Porirua's St George Dragons in the final at the Hutt Recreation Centre, Saturday 8 August.

Their 11th season in the Wellington League – having left the Manawatū League on three consecutive victories at the end of 2015 – the mighty Ōtaki club won the premiership for the sixth time.

The pitch was surrounded by supporters from both sides, but Whiti Te Rā were the stronger team from the outset and maintained their lead throughout the match, which resulted in their decisive 30–18 win.

"With St George being the minor premiers, we knew they would bring the heat in the second half," says Coach Te Umu Miratana, "but we were able to maintain pressure, winning the territory battle with the forwards leading the way.

"Overall, it took everyone within the team to get the result."

Te Umu does offer a "special mihi to Teariki Peneha, a man of few words, who led the boys with his actions and came away with Player of the Grand Final."

The impressive cup (the Appleton Shield) was awarded by Wellington Rugby League legend President Star Olsen along with his thanks to the three referees.

Whiti Te Rā Legendz will be in Sydney for rugby league Masters International Tournament, 25 September to 2 October.

Whiti Te Rā club also just held a successful Mad Hatters quiz night fundraiser to help send two senior netball teams to the 10th annual two-day Court in the Bay tournament, 9–10 October. Organiser Lydia Roiri thanks "all the amazing sponsors" for their support. Further support can be offered via their Facebook page.

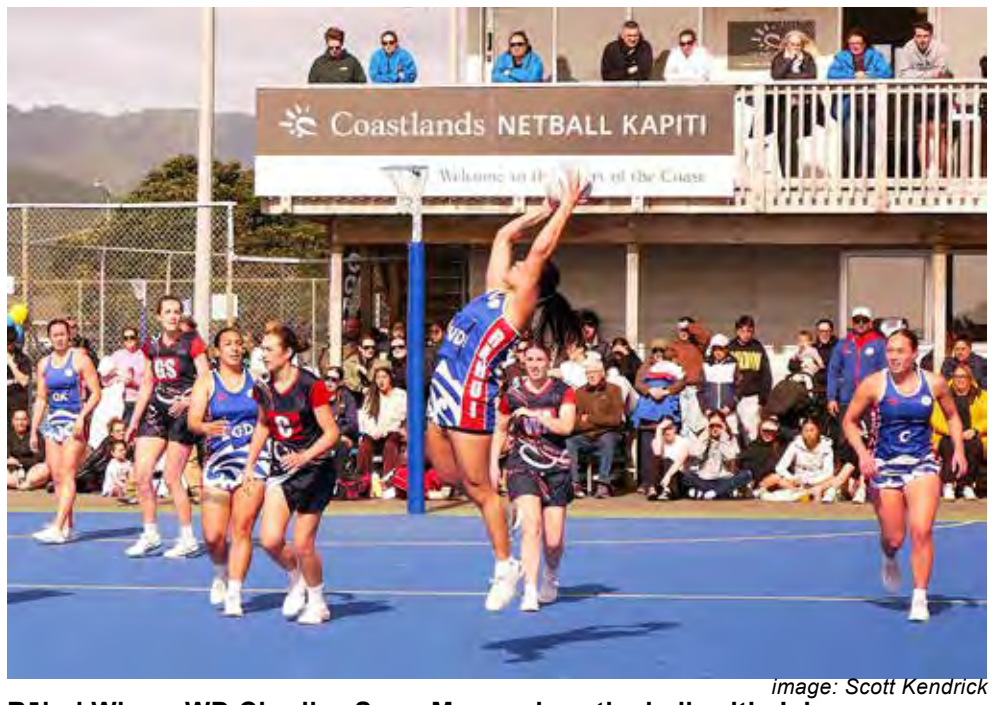


image: Scott Kendrick

Rāhui Whero WD Charlize Seng-Maru seizes the ball, with Jaime Ratapu (GK), Janey Rangiheuea (GD) and Jasmine Ratapu (C) in view, during their Premier season victory over Business House Netball Club, in the final at Te Atiawa Courts, 29 August.

Rāhui take out Premier netball season

BY SCOTT KENDRICK

Rāhui Whero have maintained an unbeaten season record to win the Netball Kāpiti Premier 1 final against Business House Netball Club (BH) at Te Atiawa Courts, Paraparaumu.

Given their supremacy in the competition, Rāhui may have been lulled into thinking the game to be a formality, but finals games can trip up the very best teams and from the start BH showed they had turned up to play with fast, accurate passing and positioning.

It was neck-and-neck after the first quarter, and at one stage BH wrestled a two-point deficit into a four-point lead with the superior height of their goal attack managing the awkward wind more effectively than Rāhui. With strong support among the large crowd, BH were surfing on momentum into half time.

It was in a feisty third quarter that Rāhui snapped out of it. Their defence got their bustle on, repeatedly disrupting and intercepting BH attacks while the mid-court gave reliable service to the goal shooters as they started to consistently net shots. It was 30–26 to Rāhui at the end of the third quarter.

By the fourth quarter Rāhui were playing like they had all season, with full-court dominance, and any earlier doubt about the game's outcome faded as they comfortably played out time for a 40–31 win.

Ōtaki Canoe Polo players taste gold

This year has been a very successful one for senior Ōtaki Canoe Polo players, with Bailey Johns and Penny Tullock (pictured at left) winning gold playing for a Palmerston North-based women's team.

"This National League season was an amazing achievement for Penny and me," says Bailey. "Our team won Women's B Grade and went unbeaten throughout the entire season, which was a huge accomplishment.

"Penny also co-coached our Women's B Grade development team, Falcons. Helping younger players improve their skills and confidence.

"I was honoured to receive the Most Improved Player award for Ravens and the Women's B Grade Player of the Year award.

On top of that, the Ōtaki Aces won a tense final to take out the NZ Open C Grade and win the right to challenge-up into Open B Grade in 2027.

Having been a mid-table team in previous competitions, the Aces upped the ante this year with more training, more competition entries and better results.

With National League being over three competitions, then Grand Finals, team captain Cam Butler says, "consistent high performance was rewarded and results of 3rd, 1st and 5th were enough for the team to scrape into the grand final to play a team they hadn't beaten yet.

"In a tightly fought final the Aces prevailed 2–1, with some heart-stopping moments in the final seconds of the games as the other team pressed for the ball."

Canoe Polo in Ōtaki is played in the Ōtaki Pool, Haruātai Park, with seniors on Tuesday nights and beginners on Sunday evenings (4.45–6.45pm). All ages and abilities are welcome to have a go.

Property Brokers

Julita & Travis

Otaki 197 Mill Road

Live, land bank, develop

4 2 1 2

Positioned on a substantial 1,803m2 residential section, this 154m2 home delivers the space, flexibility and future potential that is becoming increasingly difficult to find. Whether you are searching for room for a large family, extended family living, investment potential or future development opportunities, this is a property that offers genuine options both now and into the future. The four bedroom, two bathroom home provides comfortable everyday living with excellent scope to add value over time.

For Sale Buyers $700,000+
View By appointment
Web pb.co.nz/OTU222044

Travis Robertson
M 022 152 6629

Te Horo 1191-1193 State Highway 1

Buy the home, buy the land, or secure it all

3 2 1

Option 1: House and land together - Secure the complete lifestyle package across two titles, combining a spacious family home on approximately 1,937m2 (approx.) with an adjoining 6.207ha (approx.) block of fertile land. The approximately 250m2 (approx.) home offers three bedrooms, two bathrooms, generous living spaces, established gardens, sunny decks, a swimming pool, and a private spa pool. A new roof completed in late 2025, along with double glazing and laminate joinery, provides peace of mind for years to come. The adjoining land is currently home to an established apple and pear orchard and offers excellent versatility for grazing.

For Sale By Negotiation
View By appointment
Web pb.co.nz/OTL207832

Travis Robertson
M 022 152 6629

Otaki 24 Ian Peter Way

Living made easy

3 1 1 1

Tucked away in a private corner of Elm Court, this well positioned 107m2 (approx) three-bedroom unit offers easy, low maintenance living within a sought-after 55+ community. Designed to capture the sun, the kitchen and dining area enjoy warm morning light, while the patio opens out to a generous grassed area - the perfect spot to relax and soak up the afternoon sun. The kitchen comes with the compliment of a dishwasher and deep corner pantry. The central lounge with heat pump keeps you cosy all year round.

For Sale Buyers $599,995+
View By appointment
Web pb.co.nz/OTU225987

Travis Robertson
M 022 152 6629

Otaki 275B Rangiuru Road

Quality you can see. Comfort you'll feel.

3 2 1 2

From the moment you arrive, it's clear this is a home where attention to detail matters. A thoughtfully designed new build offering three bedrooms and two bathrooms, finished to a level that immediately stands out - this is a home you'll feel proud to come back to every day. Step inside and the quality continues. The high stud cathedral ceiling creates space and light through the main living, while subtle design features like the negative detailing on the breakfast bar add a refined, modern edge.

For Sale Buyers $799,000+
View By appointment
Web pb.co.nz/OTU216513

Travis Robertson
M 022 152 6629
David Pollock
M 027 450 1342

Otaki 9/17 Waerenga Road

Sun, space, simplicity

2 1 1 1

Tucked privately away off the road frontage in the ever popular Jubilee Gardens, this near-new, two-bedroom fee simple home, creates the perfect blend of comfort, simplicity, and effortless living from the moment you arrive. Positioned for all day sun, this thoughtfully designed home encourages you to slow down and simply enjoy from the moment you arrive. Built in 2022 by A1 Homes, complemented by full double glazing and a heat pump for year-round providing warmth, comfort, and easy living throughout every season.

For Sale Buyers $615,500+
View By appointment
Web pb.co.nz/OTU226679

Julita Manning
M 027 221 6488

Otaki 14 Dittmer Street

Solid, spacious and full of love

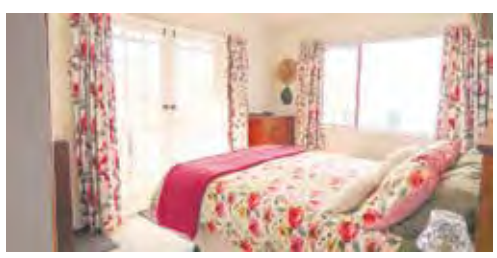
3 1 1 1

He pakari te tuapapa, he manawa nui - a strong foundation, a big heart, this charming 1960s timber home embodies the spirit of this whakatauki, beautifully showcasing the craftsmanship of its era, from its beautiful timber flooring and timber joinery to its classic weatherboard exterior and painted corrugated iron roof, this solid 110m2 (approx) three bedroom home is built with enduring quality, filled with warmth, character, and a welcoming sense of homeliness. Positioned on the sought-after Waitohu Plateau, this established 690m2 (approx) section offers space for everyone.

For Sale By Negotiation
View By appointment
Web pb.co.nz/OTU232005

Julita Manning
M 027 221 6488

Otaki Beach 5 Te Whena Street



Tranquil outlooks, sunshine and space

2 1 1 1 2

Where life blooms, memories grow, and sunshine follows. Positioned in one of Otaki Beach's most desirable pockets near the Otaki river mouth, this beautifully presented home offers the perfect blend of relaxed coastal living, established gardens, and exceptional outdoor areas. Bathed in natural light, this charming 2000s home offers two well-appointed bedrooms, a well-appointed bathroom, and spacious open-plan living designed for effortless everyday comfort. A cozy wood burner creates a warm and inviting atmosphere during the cooler months, while a heat pump ensures year-round comfort.

For Sale By Negotiation
View By appointment
Web pb.co.nz/OTU230464

Julita Manning
M 027 221 6488

Otaki 10 Tamihana Street

Sunshine, birdlife and boundless potential

4 2 1 2

Privately tucked away amongst beautiful established native planting, abundant bird life and peaceful walkways in the sought-after Lake Karuwha Estate, you will find a 2009 roughcast and tile home sitting on an elevated 1,000m2 (approx) parcel of land. Designed for modern family living, where every space feels warm, welcoming and filled with natural light, offering approximately 175m2 of thoughtfully designed living, the home features four bedrooms, a family bathroom, a private ensuite, and the convenience of internal access to the double garage.

For Sale By Negotiation
View By appointment
Web pb.co.nz/OTU229804

Julita Manning
M 027 221 6488