

# ŌTAKI TODAY

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HUNE/JUNE 2025

Ngā kōrero o Ōtaki



Was it a kiwi sighting?

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## ŌTAKI STREET SCENE

Arts, attractions, events

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At the Cannes awards were, from left, Libby Hakaraia, Maddy Hakaraia de Young, NZ Film Commission chief executive Annie Murray, commission head of international marketing Philippa Mossman, and Craig Gainsborough of Greenlit. Photo supplied

## Award 'dedicated to Ōtaki'

By Ian Carson

**An award at Cannes for the Māoriland Film Festival was an award for Ōtaki, says festival founder Libby Hakaraia.**

Libby told *Ōtaki Today* from Toronto that she never expected the win, which was the prestigious Global Production Award for Social and Economic Impact. It was presented at the 2025 Global Production Awards on May 20.

"We were stunned by the win as we were up against some very impressive finalists," she said. "I hadn't prepared a speech, but there was a really great response in the room."

"As I walked towards the podium I saw the picture of Raukawa Marae and all of our kaimahi in front of our wharehau, and I knew I wanted to dedicate the award to Ōtaki."

Libby said the judges were impressed by the community building and global reach of Māoriland, the film industry training programmes and the productions Māoriland had created.

"They were impressed with the economic benefit that Māoriland has created."

She said the award brought even more attention to Māoriland – and not only to the Māoriland Film Festival.

"In Cannes we were pitching the projects we have in Māoriland Films. We had a lot of very positive meetings about our slate of feature films, which includes *Taniwha* and seven other feature films that have been developed with global Indigenous mentors in the Māoriland Indigenous Collab programme."

With her at Cannes was Tainui Stephens, the

producer of *Taniwha* and a lead mentor of the Collab programme, and Maddy Hakaraia de Young, Māoriland Film Festival director.

Maddy said at Cannes that the award was affirmation that "the world was not only excited to hear our stories – they're energised by the way we work and communicate."

"We are here to do business, to grow the reach and impact of our stories, and to generate new opportunities for Māori and Indigenous creatives, our collaborators, whānau and community."

In a statement, the Cannes Global Production Awards said the awards shone a spotlight on international leaders who were redefining the screen industry through innovation, sustainability, and meaningful impact.

Also receiving an award at Cannes – the Impact Leadership Award – was Craig Gainsborough of Greenlit. The company creates tools to help Aotearoa screen productions implement environmentally sustainable processes. Māoriland has supported Greenlit from its inception.

Libby and other members of the Māoriland team were in Toronto for the ImagineNATIVE Film Festival, along with the 15 Māori filmmakers involved in the collaborative programme.

Libby is tumu whakarae of Māoriland Charitable Trust, director of *Taniwha* and writer/director of one of the films in the Māoriland Indigenous Collab programme called *Disco Kuini*.

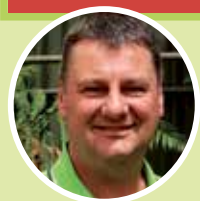
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WHAT'S ON

**MATARIKI EVENTS**  
**MATARIKI ON MOANA** Moana St, Ōtaki Beach Friday 20 June 10am–3pm. See Ōtaki Street Scene for details.  
**MATARIKI RACES 2025** Friday 20 June, gates open 11am, 8 races. \$5 entry fee for 18 yo and over, free kids entertainment, food carts, special performances, members stand open to all.  
**MATARIKI 2025 – ŌTAKI POOL** Haruātai Park, 200 Mill Road, Ōtaki. Friday, 20 June, 1-4pm. Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki invites you to their special Matariki event. Free entry to the pool, spa and sauna, aspiration board, delicious snack packs, and good yarns!  
**MĀORILAND PRESENTS MATARIKI RAMAROA** Ōtaki Memorial Hall, Main St, Ōtaki. Saturday, 21 June, 10am-3pm. The heart of Ōtaki will once again be lit up with live music, food trucks, bouncy castles, market stalls, and art displays.  
**ŌTAKI COLLEGE MATARIKI NIGHT MARKET** Ōtaki College, 33 Mill Road, Ōtaki. Saturday June 21, 5-8pm.  
**PUANGA KEI RUNGA!** Māoriland Hub, 68 Main Street, Ōtaki. 21 June – August 23, open Monday-Friday 11am-4pm, Saturday 10-4pm A contemporary and traditional Indigenous art exhibition. All welcome to the opening at 10am, June 21. Featured works by: Lewis Gardiner, Ed Archie, NoiseCat, Susan Barrett, Elaine Bevan, Francene Wineti, Numa MacKenzie, and more.  
**ŌTAKI MUSEUM:** New exhibition Mai i te Kāinga Tāone Iti – Wāhanga 1: 1843-1920 (From Kāinga to Village – Part 1: 1843-1920) opens at the museum on Saturday, May 17. It's the third in a series of exhibitions focusing on the township of Ōtaki, and its development over the past 200 years. Visitors can also play the old theatre pianola while at the museum. The Anne Thorpe Reading Room is open at the same times as the museum. Museum open 10am-2pm Thursday to Saturday, except public holidays. 49 Main St. 06 364-6886.  
**ŌTAKI BUZZ CLUB** meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm. Venue: Waitohu School hall, Te Manuao Road, Ōtaki. Come along if you're interested in beekeeping.  
**ŌTAKI MARKET** 58 Main Highway, Ōtaki. Open every fortnight in winter. 10am-2pm.  
**COMMUNITY BOARD** The Waikanae Community Board meets next at 6.30pm (note new time) on Tuesday, July 22, at Waikanae Beach Hall, 24 Rauparaha St, Waikanae Beach. The public is welcome at meetings. Search "meetings and agendas" at kapiticoast.govt.nz from two days before the meeting for the agenda, which is also at council libraries and service centres. To speak at a meeting, register by calling 04 296 4700 or 0800 486 486, or email democracy.services@kapiticoast.govt.nz  
**TOI MATARAU GALLERY:** Maoriland Hub, Main St, Ōtaki. Open Monday to Saturday 11am-4pm. Toi Matarau is a summit for multidisciplinary arts where Māori and indigenous artists gather, collaborate, are inspired and supported. See [toi.maorilandfilm.co.nz](http://toi.maorilandfilm.co.nz)  
**TOTE MODERN:** Ōtaki Pottery Club's gallery and workshop at Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, Te Roto Rd. Open 10am-3pm Friday to Sunday.  
**OLD COURTHOUSE GALLERY** 239 Main Highway, Ōtaki. Open Thurs-Sunday: 10am-4pm. Closed Public Holidays. 027 435 0408.  
**OPEN HOME** Ōtaki Baptist Church hall, 4-8pm every Tuesday and Friday. A drop-in space for anyone to cook or share a meal, socialise and even take a shower. Everyone welcome, including volunteers.  
**POETRY IN ŌTAKI** Third Friday of each month, 10.30-11.30am, Library Supper Room, Aotaki St. All welcome. Call 021 050 1904 for details.  
**ŌTAKI GARAGE SALE:** Third Saturday of the month, 9am-11.30am, Presbyterian Church, 249 Mill Rd. 06 364-6449. Rev Peter Jackson 021 207 9455, [owpresb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:owpresb@xtra.co.nz)  
**ŌTAKI STROKE SUPPORT GROUP & WELLNESS CENTRE:** Meets for Sit and Be Fit classes, 10am Friday mornings at Senior Citizens' Hall, Rangitira Street. All welcome.  
**ŌTAKI LIBRARY – ALL SESSIONS FREE:**  
**JP service** every Monday 10.30am-12.30pm;  
**Age Concern** every 2nd Thursday 10am-noon  
**Greypower** 1st & 3rd Thursday 10.30am-1.30pm.  
**CHOIRS** Let's Sing Ōtaki, Tuesdays 2-3pm, Hadfield Hall. Kāpiti Women's Choir, Mondays 1.30-3pm, Baptist Church, Te Moana Rd, Waikanae. New members welcome. Enquiries to Ann-Marie Stapp 021 492 127.  
**To list an event, contact [debbsi@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:debbsi@idmedia.co.nz)**

# Peters rattles chains of FPP ghost

**The ace populist champion of centrist politics, Winston Peters, may yet become the spur for a revival of calls to revise our MMP electoral system.**

The reason carries with it an ironic overtone in that the MMP electoral system has been a cornerstone of NZ First's political growth.

The spark for adoption of MMP was lit by another populist of much appeal to factions of the left and of the right – the Green party's Rod Donald. Donald believed in the 1990s that the first past the post (FPP) system of government had lost an ability to provide genuine representation in Parliament of the diverse sectors and ethnic elements that make up the country's population.

Labour saw it as a way to loosen what it perceived as a growing National stranglehold on regional and rural electorates sufficient to regularly carry it to power unless it completely lost touch with popular views. National did not need majority support to win the Treasury benches.

MMP was championed as a means of bringing minority policy thinking to bear on significant issues confronting the Parliament; thinking that might at the time or in the future become mainstream. Donald assured the country that it would lead to more transparency in government and put an end to government decision making behind closed doors in rooms clouded with cigarette smoke.

University analysts worked on electoral formulas to achieve fair representation that allowed the widest possible expression of opinions. A special tribunal recommended what we have now, preferring it ahead of the proportional system involving allocation of voters' choices on ballot papers according to their preferences for representation (STV) as used in Wellington City.

While the similar system as used in Germany has resulted in regular coalition governments with one centrist party in the middle often acceptable to both left and right, or a Green Party usually focused on environmental matters rather than social activism, different forces are at play in the New Zealand Parliament.

Winston the Wily with NZ First created a central path to government. He anointed

Labour; he anointed National (and Act); and could again reverse back to Labour on his terms. This ability to switch to either of two main players according to what he can extract from each is enhanced by the radicalism of the Greens and the "take no prisoners" approach of Te Pati Maori (TPM). The latter is widely perceived as concerned only with maintaining its core ethnic constituency than broadening its appeal across the whole community.

This left-flavoured radicalism of the Greens and single-minded focus of TPM is a huge barrier to Labour's prospects of regaining government. Both may continue to achieve their 5 percent of votes cast to maintain parliamentary representation. Neither with their present extremist policies are likely to be acceptable as a prospective partner for Labour, or NZ First if a three-way coalition was needed to get the left in government.

It is a galling situation for Labour. Hearing Peters seeking to use the honeypot of a Labour-NZ First coalition as a reason for Labour to depose Chris Hipkins as leader must surely have been as upsetting to Labour stalwarts as was Helen Clark's loss to Jim Bolger's National two decades ago!

It was notable during the past week that TPM president John Tamihere was reportedly seeking to soften off the TPM "take no prisoners" stance on the political stage. His objective was to make

the party more acceptable to Labour. Unfortunately for the TPM political maestro, that horse has almost certainly already bolted. The fiery rhetoric of TPM leaders in Parliament, and the yet-to-be decision on their performance of the haka there, has stimulated too strong a groundswell of public antipathy to make them acceptable to either of the mainstream parties. A decade of less theatrics and solid parliamentary work is probably needed to restore prospects of TPM support across a wide spectrum of voters.

For Labour then, and its core academic and trade union base, the problem as set out in recent opinion polls is to find a route to success at a general election. Polls suggest Labour might be able to achieve more votes than National on a percentage basis. But even 40 to 45 percent is not sufficient without any of the Greens, TPM or NZ First to form a government.

National, on the other hand, could expect that even 30 to 35 percent could get it through with help, as currently, from Act and NZ First.

But should FPP be implemented again, with the prospect of National v Labour as the prime game, the party of Savage, Fraser, Kirk, Clark, and Ardern could once more be on a political stage with real prospects of success. With it might go the Jim Bolger formula – an 80-seat House of Representatives elected under FPP, and a 40-seat preferentially (MMP or STV) selected upper chamber with limited powers to scrutinise and comment on legislation and matters of the day.

The political game New Zealand First plays, and the reaction to public opinion polls of Labour's key leaders and academic supporters in coming months, could well determine the future of MMP. Wellington City Council's performance under STV has likely killed off any widespread support for that style of electoral reform.

■ *Bruce has been an economics and business editor, and a foreign correspondent in Washington, London and Hong Kong.*

POLITICS



BRUCE KOHN

CARTOON OF THE MONTH

By Jared Carson



## ŌTAKI TODAY *Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki*

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# 'No Ōtaki consultation' on polyclinic

**Support for a proposed upgrade of the Kāpiti Health Centre at Paraparaumu would not help Ōtaki, say local health advocates.**

Kāpiti Coast District Council on May 28 adopted a Kāpiti Health Advisory Group (KHAG) recommendation that the council begin discussions with Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) with the aim of upgrading the current health centre to become a polyclinic over time, providing a greater range of health services.

"While we acknowledge the intentions behind the KHAG and KCDC proposal for a polyclinic in Kāpiti, it's important to note that such a facility would not address the access and affordability barriers faced by many Ōtaki residents," says Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki kaiwhakahaere (general manager) Heniti Buick. "For our community, the best solution is one that's based in Ōtaki, developed by and for Ōtaki whānau.

"Local service delivery must be driven by local needs, and we've been clear in our communication that any future service developments for this area must involve genuine community consultation."

Heniti says after-hours care is not just about a building, it's about resourcing trusted, existing local services to deliver responsive and accessible care.

"If a regional solution like a polyclinic is prioritised without parallel investment in Ōtaki, it risks overlooking the very real health inequities that exist here. At Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki, our focus remains on supporting locally led solutions that ensure primary care is delivered where it's most needed."

Her comments are supported by Adrian



From left, Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki kaiwhakahaere (general manager) Heniti Buick, Ōtaki Health & Wellbeing Advisory Group chair Adrian Gregory, and Ian Powell, author of the Kāpiti Health Advisory Group's case for a polyclinic to Te Whatu Ora. Photos supplied

Gregory, chair of the Ōtaki Health and Wellbeing Group.

"KHAG's 'case' to Te Whatu Ora doesn't address the health needs of Ōtaki, nor is it clear whether the polyclinic will even service Ōtaki residents when they need it," he says.

Adrian says sections of KHAG's case referring to Ōtaki are inaccurate and misrepresent Ōtaki.

"Inaccurate because Ōtaki's population is actually growing – not declining as suggested – and everyone in Ōtaki and Te Horo knows it. And its health outcomes are actually better than comparable populations, with death rates at a lower level than might be expected. We have health research from MidCentral to support this."

He says no-one from Ōtaki was asked to contribute to the sections on Ōtaki – not the local health providers, iwi or the community's health advocates.

"It's about Ōtaki, but certainly not by Ōtaki. A lone paediatrician in Palmerston North is quoted, who is almost certainly not a resident of Ōtaki, and not the voice of Ōtaki."

Adrian says he's aware KHAG held a public meeting about the case it was to present.

"Sadly, it seems that they still have not engaged with Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki, the Ōtaki Medical Centre, the providers at Ngā Hapu o Ōtaki or local health advocates."

Ōtaki-based councillor Rob Kofoed said he'd been told that Ōtaki was outside the scope of the proposed polyclinic.

"It will be over my dead body if Ōtaki is not engaged with and looked after," he told *Ōtaki Today*.

He said he would be making his views known at the next full council meeting.

KHAG said in a media statement the day after the council offered support for its case, that

*"While we acknowledge the intentions behind the KHAG and KCDC proposal for a polyclinic in Kāpiti, it's important to note that such a facility would not address the access and affordability barriers faced by many Ōtaki residents."*

– Heniti Buick

Kāpiti was the only community in New Zealand with more than 55,000 people and the nearest hospital was at least an hour's drive away

"As the community with the highest proportion of over 65-year-olds and rapidly increasing numbers of young families moving to the area, this concern is becoming critical, it said.

"In 2018 more than 22,000 Kapiti people signed a petition seeking a hospital" said Ian Powell, KHAG's *Compelling Case* author. "We recognise the workforce and financial pressures that will mean this is a long time coming but believe a polyclinic, providing 24/7 urgent care, increased outpatient services, diagnostic and treatment facilities and other health services, offers an efficient and cost effective option that will relieve many concerns for us."

The KHAG statement said the proposed polyclinic would provide vital services that minimised the strain on nearby facilities and ensured that Kapiti residents, especially the elderly and growing families, were cared for in their own community.

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 <p><b>A TASTE OF VIETNAM</b></p> <p>3 May 2026 <span>15 DAYS</span></p>	 <p><b>AMSTERDAM - BUDAPEST CRUISE</b></p> <p>27 May 2026 <span>17 DAYS</span></p>	 <p><b>MID-WINTER IN TEKAPO &amp; MT COOK</b></p> <p>24 June 2026 <span>TBC</span></p>	 <p><b>ATHENS TO VENICE WITH VIKING</b></p> <p>28 Aug 2026 <span>14 DAYS</span></p>
 <p><b>EAST AFRICA SAFARI</b></p> <p>2 Sept 2026 <span>17 DAYS</span></p>	 <p><b>TURKISH DELIGHTS</b></p> <p>5 Sept 2026 <span>15 DAYS</span></p>	 <p><b>ANCIENT LANDS: DUBAI - EGYPT - JORDAN</b></p> <p>15 Oct 2026 <span>17 DAYS</span></p>	 <p><b>MOROCCO UNVEILED</b></p> <p>2 Apr 2027 <span>19 DAYS</span></p>

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# Changes proposed for Taylors Rd

By Ian Carson

On a bleak Sunday evening (May 18), NZTA Waka Kotahi dropped a bombshell at the Manakau Hall when it announced proposed changes to the Ōtaki to North Levin (Ō2NL expressway).

Most stunned were Manakau residents, who heard plans for a bridge to link Manakau Heights with the village were to be dropped, but there were implications for Ōtaki, too.

Although not new news, it sunk in that with no on/off expressway access points between Tararua Road in Levin and Taylors Road at Ōtaki, residents of the villages between – Manakau, Kuku and Ōhau – would have to use the old highway. If they wanted to go south past Ōtaki, they would have to link up with a new connection to Taylors Road and drive through the shopping precinct to connect with the Kāpiti expressway at Ōtaki Gorge Road.

While some Ōtaki retailers have voiced concern at the re-emergence of unwanted traffic, others are more optimistic, hoping Horowhenua motorists will take the time to stop for some shopping or a coffee.

Residents on the Ōtaki Plateau – especially those on Te Manuao Road and Waitohu Valley Road – will notice more traffic as the link between the old highway and Taylors Road is restored.

More pleased are likely to be Taylors Road residents, who currently have their road blocked from directly entering the current State Highway 1. They have had to wind their way under the northern end of the Kāpiti expressway and across the old Waitohu Stream bridge and onto the Plateau to go north, or south through



A Waka Kotahi overlay that shows the proposed change of layout at Taylors Road.

the shops to Ōtaki Gorge Road.

They will also have an easier time coming home from the south. An expressway off-ramp is planned, which will link to a new roundabout that will direct them onto Taylors Road.

There is no off-ramp from the north at Taylors Road. Traffic will use the current offramp leading up to the Plateau. Drivers in the area will also need to use the Plateau on-ramp to go north on the expressway, as they do now.

At Levin, the promised full interchange at Tararua Road is proposed to be a roundabout, with the road narrowing to just one lane each way north of it.

Both Horowhenua and Kāpiti councils issued a joint statement in late May saying it wasn't the road they were promised.

The statement said the design changes were driven by short-term budget pressures, rather than long-term needs.

“We need a road that works for all Horowhenua and Kāpiti residents, both now and in the future,” it said.

The councils said their communities had engaged in good faith throughout the project, including the Environment Court process.

■ Residents and others with concerns are urged to write to the minister and NZTA: [chris.bishop@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:chris.bishop@parliament.govt.nz) and [boardsecretariat@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:boardsecretariat@nzta.govt.nz).

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# Kiwi sighted in Ōtaki – well, almost

By Ian Carson

**It almost made it to the front page, and would have given *Ōtaki Today* a national scoop.**

But in the end, the blurry video that included the possible sound of a kiwi at Ōtaki was not what all had hoped.

The phone call came late last Saturday evening; a tip-off from someone who loves our paper and knew I'd be interested in his story.

"Thought you should know," the caller said as we considered a second glass of quite palatable red wine. "We've been talking to a guy who reckons he's got a video of a kiwi, and there's a bird sound that's just like one."

Now this was genuinely interesting. It's unlikely a kiwi has

roamed anywhere near Ōtaki for a good 150 years or more. That there should be one strutting around looking for the next viral Tik Tok clip would be incredible.

So *Ōtaki Today* duly got hold of the man who lives in the Forest Lakes area and visited the lifestyle block where his security footage had captured movement just after midnight on a recent Saturday. The security system had also recorded a bird call.

The footage certainly showed an animal snooping around, shining eyes a giveaway to its movement. And there was a distinct call towards the end of the video.

If the animal that activated the security cameras was not a kiwi, then maybe the bird call was. The video had been taken to a wildlife

centre, where the video imaging was deemed inconclusive, but the sound was of a kiwi.

That was enough to prompt a call via various parties to the local media – us – who were excited enough to almost spill the cheap bottle of Merlot.

Like all good journalists, we needed to get an expert opinion. Who would know best the sound of a kiwi, and whether this image with the shining eyes was just a hedgehog drunk on the local berries or a bone fide flightless bird?

John Barrett. He of the venerable Barrett whānau who have lived among the birds of Kapiti Island for a couple of centuries. If anyone knew what a kiwi looked like – even in the dark – and how it sounded, he would.

"It would be exciting if it is," he said on the initial phone call. "Send me the video."

The review didn't take long.

On the imagery: "Definitely not a kiwi," he said. "My opinion is probably a rat, perhaps stoat but movement a bit slow for a stoat."

And the sound? "The call in the clip is the early part of a ruru (morepork) call, before it moves into the familiar morepork repetitive call that people are more familiar with.

"Sorry about that."

Damn.

But let's just make sure, in the unlikely event John didn't know the difference between a ruru and a kiwi.

So *Ōtaki Today* contacted the Department of Conservation.

Put us on to your top expert on flightless birds, especially someone with good hearing, we said.

As it happens, this was none other than Rogan Colbourne, who provides advice to kiwi conservation groups, and coincidentally lives in the Ōtaki area.

The response from DoC was equally disappointing.

"Rogan has had a quick look at the video and agrees with John's assessment: he thinks it's a rat or mustelid [of the weasel family] in the video and the call in the background is a ruru. Sorry."

So the story was almost a dead duck, if not a live kiwi.

Except that John Barrett, in saying he'd be excited if it was a kiwi, he wouldn't be surprised.

"Kiwi can adapt to different environments pretty quickly. They can be seen on pasture land up north, for example.

"We shouldn't be surprised at what nature can do."

He says adult kiwi can live for 40-50 years, and are generally powerful enough to protect themselves from smaller predator such as rats and stoats.

"It's when they're juveniles that they're most vulnerable," John says.

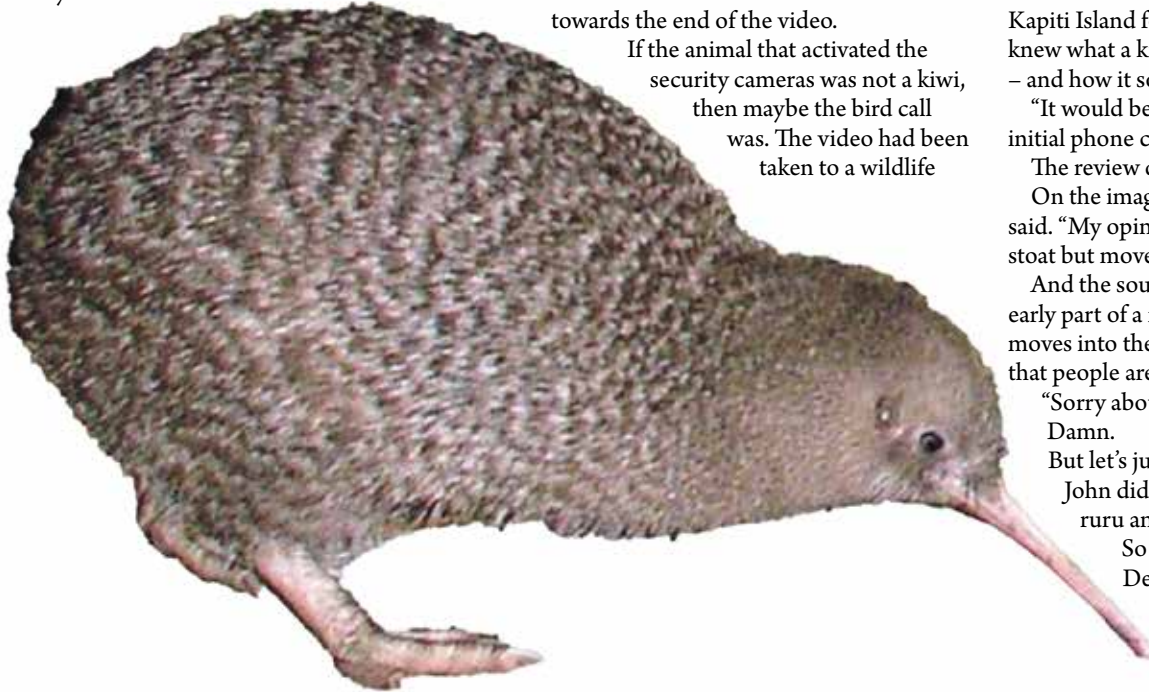
If a kiwi was to be found around Ōtaki, it could come up from the Makara area of Wellington, or down from Waitāre or the Manawātū region.

"They can travel long distances, but only if they were looking for kai. If they have enough where they are, they won't move on."

John rejected the idea that a kiwi might pack an overnight bag, jump on a log and paddle its way to the mainland from Kapiti Island.

"That's not what they do," he says.

But it would make a good story



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TE PUNA ORANGA O ŌTAKI



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# Trappers aim for pest-free Te Horo

A push to make Te Horo a happier place is about to get under way with a campaign to reduce threats to native wildlife.

Predator Free Te Horo will target introduced pests by distributing traps at a free sausage sizzle outside the Te Horo Hall from 11am-2pm on Saturday, June 21.

“The goal is to bring more birdsong to the village and the district,” says John Draper, who is coordinating Predator Free Te Horo with Quentin Long and Maddy West. “It would be huge if the kākā and kākāriki from Kapiti Island could be enticed back to the district.

“They are not here because there are too many rats and stoats around.”

To get established, Predator Free Te Horo has received funding from the Predator Free NZ Trust, Nikau Foundation and Simplicity Foundation. The funding will provide 30 rat traps to be used around homes in Te Horo.

The project has also received funds from Nikau Foundation’s Bice Tennyson Endowment Fund and The Leseberg Fund that will provide traps to be used on lifestyle and farm properties in Te Horo.

“By working alongside the successful Predator Free Te Horo Beach group and its extension up to old SH1, there is now the potential to create a zone from the beach to the foothills of the Tararua’s where native birds can re-establish,” John says.

Predator Free Te Horo will not only target rats – it has about 50 traps to capture weasels and stoats east of old SH1. The traps have been built by volunteers using timber donated by Zero Waste Ōtaki and funding from Nikau



Foundation and several local residents for the trap mechanisms.

It’s hoped more grants and donations will allow more traps to be installed.

James Willcocks, the driving force behind making Wellington’s Miramar Peninsula pest free, will be at the June 21 meeting to offer his experience on getting a successful trapping programme under way.

To be eligible for a free rat or stoat trap from Predator Free Te Horo residents must live on or east of old SH1. Those living west of old SH1 can contact Predator Free Te Horo Beach (predatorfreetehorobeach@gmail.com) to join its trapping programme.

■ For more, contact pftehor@gmail.com or phone John Draper (022 530 2566), Quentin Long (027 440 3843) or Maddy West (022 323 1912)



Trap makers, from left, Wayne McCausland (left) and Tom Gillespie (third from left) with Predator Free Te Horo coordinators Quentin Long (centre) and John Draper. Photo supplied

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# New World pitches in again for foodbank

About \$8000 worth of goods has been handed over by New World Ōtaki to the local foodbank.

New World owner Matt Mullins and other staff delivered the goods to the foodbank in Main Street on June 5.

The support is part of the Family to Family initiative, in which shoppers can buy a food bag or donate towards one. The bags and other supplies that come from New World are then delivered to the foodbank.

It's the seventh year in which the supermarket has helped out.

A total of 325 food bags were bought this year by customers for \$20 each.

Staff topped up the number to 400, and the supermarket donated \$1690, the local portion of New World's national donation to foodbanks.

"The foodbank does a great job for the community," Matt says. "We're really happy to support them."

The supplies contribute to about 10 percent of the foodbank's annual requirement.

**RIGHT: New World Ōtaki owner Matt Mullins and Ōtaki Foodbank manager Lucy Tahere.** Photo Ōtaki Today



# Lottery boost for rotunda

A \$200,000 Lotteries grant has given the Ōtaki Rotunda restoration project a boost.

The rotunda is at the old Ōtaki Children's Health Camp and had been neglected for years until the Ōtaki Rotunda Trust stepped in. Restoration is now well under way under the guidance of the trust.

The Friends of the trust fundraised to get the first phase completed. The next stage has been funded from the Department of Conservation's 2024-25 budget.

Rotunda Trust chair Di Buchan says the Lotteries grant will enable work to continue seamlessly until at least the end of July. She is delighted at receiving the grant.

"This has been a wonderful outcome."

Di says there's still a long way to go, but the grant is a significant step forward.

The trust is still receiving donations and will continue fundraising, including quiz nights at the RSA. A recent fundraising campaign is "Sponsor a Window". Individuals, families and businesses are contributing the restoration by paying \$500 for a window sash – their name will be on a plaque on the windowsill.

Di says the restored rotunda will be a huge asset to the Kāpiti community.

"We are receiving enquiries already from organisations and entertainers keen to book the facility."

The rotunda was one of two first built in Rotorua as wards for soldiers returning from the First World War. They were moved to Ōtaki in 1931 to serve as dormitories for children staying at the new children's health camp. One of the rotundas was demolished in 1963.

■ If you are interested in sponsoring a window sash, contact Di Buchan 027 683 0213



One of the rotunda exterior walls, with restoration work almost complete.

The interior of the historic rotunda at the old Ōtaki Children's Health Camp. Photo supplied



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Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Government



# ONZM for art, sport, heritage work

By Ian Carson

**Some people put huge effort into so many endeavours that an official honour seems almost inevitable – but rarely expected.**

So it is with Sue Elliott, who was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) in the 2025 King’s Birthday honours.

Her citation says she has made substantial contributions to promoting arts, sports and heritage in Wellington.

It seems an understatement given her prodigious workload – though calling it work would not be a term Sue would use herself.

At her Ōtaki home she shares with recently retired criminal lawyer husband Craig Smith, she acknowledges that a good deal of her time is taken up with pro bono “work”.

“I don’t think I’ve been paid for any of it,” she says, referring to the list of achievements that led to her award. She certainly doesn’t mind, given the satisfaction she gets in helping where she can.

“I had parents who were huge contributors to the community. The seven of us kids never questioned whether we would do that.”

Sue’s source of income is instead consultancy in communications and marketing.

Art is at the core of most of the work she has done in Wellington.

“I enjoy pretty much everything I do,” she says. “I’m project driven.

“I’m very happy to do a strategy and then roll up my sleeves and make it happen. I love to see something through from start to finish.”

Sue says she’s been lucky enough to work with some great teams of people who love Wellington, which has made everything she’s



**Sue Elliott ONZM: “I enjoy pretty much everything I do. I’m project driven. I’m very happy to do a strategy and then roll up my sleeves and make it happen.** *Photo Ōtaki Today*

been involved in much easier.

Although the Wellington arts scene took a hit after the earthquakes of 2013, when many venues became unusable, the arts are still a big part of what makes Wellington a good place to visit and live.

“There’s still a huge amount of creativity happening.”

Sue was a founding trustee in 1995 of the Wellington Museums’ Trust. She was a board member of the Wellington International Festival

of the Arts for 12 years – her understanding of commercial sponsorship helped raise several million dollars for the festival.

She has been a trustee of Wellington Sculpture Trust since 2002, becoming chair in 2013 and only recently stepping down, though still a trustee. She led the fundraising and installation of six permanent sculptures, and instigated the 4 Plinths Sculpture Awards and Wellington’s annual PARKing Day, which draws attention to the city’s open spaces.

In 2018, Sue co-founded Public Art Heritage Aotearoa New Zealand to document, promote and protect New Zealand’s 20th century public art works and preserve a unique facet of the country’s history and identity. A new website lists the artworks – an ongoing project is to add information about each of the artworks and the artists.

She served on the Wellington Stadium Development Committee, when there had been sports groups, administrators, local and central government all lobbying for a say in how a stadium should be used.

Sue played a pivotal role in selling \$15 million worth of stadium memberships, and had 15 years on the Wellington Regional Stadium Trust. She won a TVNZ marketing award for her fundraising and marketing campaign for the stadium.

Sue has also held key roles on the National Trust Board of the Life Education Trust, the New Zealand Medals Trust, the Bougainville Library Trust and in 2020 she received a Winston Churchill Fellowship.

Although Sue says she’s only recently learned to say no, she still has plenty to do and no sign of slowing down. She regularly commutes to Wellington, appreciating the improved access via the expressway and Transmission Gully.

What she is grateful for is her retreat in Ōtaki, where she is able to relax surrounded by old trees and established gardens. She and Craig have lived in Ōtaki for only the past year.

In choosing Ōtaki, Sue says she didn’t want somewhere that “felt like God’s waiting room”.

“We came here [from Wellington] so we could still be close to Wellington and because we wanted to be part of a community that was diverse and interesting,” she says. “Ōtaki has all that in spades. We love it here.”

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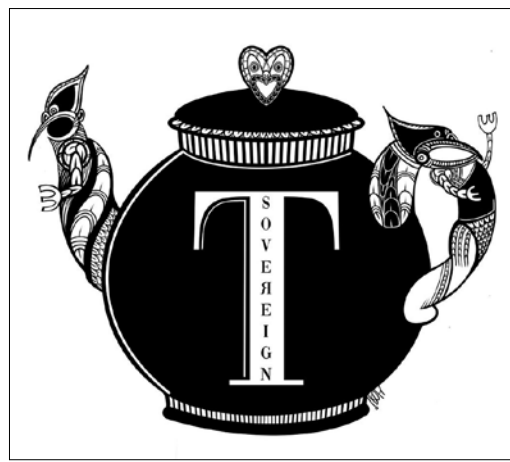


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Winter 2025






## Get ready for Matariki

### MATARIKI ON MOANA IS BACK

After one of the hottest mid-winter gigs last year (at left), Matariki on Moana returns to Ōtaki on Friday, June 20. Be sure to be on Moana Street at Ōtaki Beach where local artist Hori is hosting live music by legends Tiki Taane, Troy Kingi and Casual Healing. There will be kai trucks, market stores, face painting and fun for the whole whānau. Manawatia a Matariki mai puanga.

*See following pages for other Matariki celebrations.*





# MATARIKI MOANA

KAI WAIATA / MUSIC BY  
**TIKI TAANE**  
**TROY KINGI**  
**CASUAL HEALING**

WHEN / TE RĀ O MATARIKI  
**FRIDAY JUNE 20TH**  
**10AM - 3PM**

**FOOD STORES MARKETS AND FUN FOR ALL THE WHĀNAU - 84 MOANA STREET ŌTAKI BEACH**





## Multi-talented Tiki Taane

**Musician, experimentalist, musical activist, producer, and live engineer, Tiki Taane, was a member of New Zealand band Salmonella Dub for 11 years.**

In 2007 he left to pursue a solo career. His debut album, *Past, Present, Future*, was released on October 22, 2007, in New Zealand and has since gone platinum twice. *Always on My Mind* was a number one single, which became the first digital single to reach platinum sales, also holding the record for staying in the Aotearoa Top 40 charts for 55 weeks.

Taane has been exclusive live sound engineer for drum and bass act Shapeshifter since their first gig in 1999.

In 1996, he was asked to become live soundman to Christchurch band Salmonella Dub, who were becoming one of New Zealand's most popular acts. Through this role, he began to earn himself a reputation for his ability to bring a powerful live sound using a variety of equipment at a diverse set of venues.

During this time, he stopped playing regularly with metal bands Cultivation and Braaspadeak, whom he had previously been associated with. While on tour with Salmonella Dub, Taane

composed a dub-reggae track in his hotel room. He shared it with the group, and they recorded it straight away.

With whānau and friends, Taane made a music video featuring himself on tour at The Gathering that year. This track, *For the Love of It*, shot into the New Zealand charts and became a summertime anthem.

Taane played his final gig with Salmonella Dub on New Year's Eve 2006. Describing his decision to leave, Taane said: "I felt like it was time to take a break from Salmonella Dub."

He described his time since leaving as "very lonely" and "very intense". Describing the band in an interview after the release of his album, Taane said: "I have so much love and respect for [Salmonella Dub] because if it wasn't for them I wouldn't be where I am now. I wouldn't be here."

Taane has produced multi platinum albums for bands such as Six60, Shapeshifter, and Salmonella Dub.

■ Source: Wikipedia

## Multi-talented Troy Kingi

**Musician and actor Troy Kingi first received media attention when he appeared in the 2013 film *Mt. Zion*. Kingi is a multi-instrumentalist, known for his 10/10/10 project: the plan to release 10 albums in 10 genres across 10 years.**

Born and raised in Rotorua, Kingi is of Te Arawa, Ngāpuhi and Te Whānau-ā-Apanui descent.

He began learning guitar at Te Aute College in the Hawke's Bay, and formed his first band, Toll House, at Kerikeri High School. Toll House entered the Smokefreerockquest, winning the regional Northland competition.

Since the early 2000s, Kingi has lived in Kerikeri. He studied at the Music and Audio Institute of New Zealand in Auckland, and on returning to Kerikeri fronted a number of short-lived bands, including Mongolian Deathworm, Kingkachoo, Troy Kingi and the Tigers, Full Moon Street and Typhoon Fools, while also working as a scuba instructor and fruit picking in Kerikeri orchards.

Kingi's work with Typhoon Fools gained him more widespread attention, and led to him being cast in the film *Mt. Zion*. He also

featured on the film's soundtrack, and after the film's release, toured New Zealand with the film's lead actor Stan Walker. His appearance in *Mt. Zion* led to further work as an actor, including *The Pā Boys* (2014) and *Hunt for the Wilderpeople* (2016).

Kingi collaborated on the Stan Walker song *Aotearoa* (2014), a song created as part of a Te Wiki o te Reo Māori project, sung in Māori. It reached number 1 in New Zealand, something not been seen since Pātea Māori Club's *Poi E* in 1984.

Kingi set himself the goal of releasing 10 albums in the span of 10 years, performing in 10 different genres. The first in this series was *Guitar Party at Uncle's Bach* (2016), a double album recorded live in seven days at Lyttelton. At the Waiata Māori Music Awards, Kingi won the awards for best Māori pop artist

and best solo male artist.

His second album, the soul-psychedelic *Shake That Skinny Ass All the Way to Zygertron* (2017), featured *Aztechknowledgey*, which was nominated for the Apra Silver Scroll award. *Holy Colony Burning Acres* (2019) was a political roots reggae album featuring songs that discussed subjects including West Papua, the Inuit, Hawai'i and Aboriginal Tasmanians. The album won the Taite Music Prize in 2020.

In 2020, Kingi released *The Ghost of Freddie Cesar*, an album inspired by a cassette tape Kingi found in the belongings of his father, who disappeared in 2005. The album was a commercial success, reaching number 2 on the New Zealand albums chart.

Kingi's 2021 album, *Black Sea Golden Ladder*, was written in four days at an apartment on Clyde Wharf in Wellington, as a part of the Matairangi Mahi Toi



Artist Residency programme. The album was co-produced with New Zealand singer-songwriter Delaney Davidson.

Kingi has five children with his

wife Huia and works with the Raid Movement, a group combatting youth suicide in Northland.

■ Source: Wikipedia



## Soothing golden-era sound

**Nikau Te Huki is a unique composer, producer and multi-instrumentalist based in Poneke Wellington, and his soulful solo project goes by the name of Casual Healing.**

For more than six years, Te Huki has significantly influenced the music scene in Wellington.

Establishing a vibrant hub for indigenous roots, rock and reggae through his band H4LF CAST. Notable performances have been at Gardens Magic, Tora Bombora, Nest Fest, and Twisted Frequency.

There's something curious about this young Māori-Italian maestro. He holds a charming crooked smile and often appears in elaborate wardrobe, with an old nylon guitar over his shoulder looking like Elvis Marley, weaving a symphony of roots, RnB, reggae, neo-soul, indie, folklore and rock.

The entire Casual Healing discography has been produced by Nikau in his home studio, Te Whare CHuR. Thus are the many talents of this man.

Casual Healing understands the power of music. As a true sonic missionary, Te Huki is creating a soothing "golden-era sound" as part of his mission to heal with his music.

Te Huki is a natural storyteller who inspires the listener by sharing his perspective of life through an authentic and relatable lens, drawing from a palette of raw emotions and painting a canvas woven from the tapestry of his unique life.

The songs of Casual Healing emphasise life lessons of aroha, peace and unity through powerful lyrical scribe woven into smooth reggae, soul rhythm.

This infusion creates a unique nostalgic vibe, creating a captivating and comforting essence that evokes recollections of moments shared with friends and whānau.

Casual Healing's goal is to create songs that "make people feel like they want to be better people", drawing inspiration from Bob Marley, who showed us the power of compassion and simplicity.

■ [muzic.nz/artists/casual-healing/](https://muzic.nz/artists/casual-healing/)





## Try some Māori kai this Matariki

Māori have been cooking with ingredients from Aotearoa's native forests for more than a thousand years. Kai plays an integral role in the celebration of Matariki, the Māori New Year. Whether you are looking to host a Matariki feast, or simply want to explore the flavours of Aotearoa, these recipes will help you connect with Māori culture through food. Matariki is about bringing together your friends and whānau to commemorate the past and look towards the future. Here are some recipes you might like to try.



### GARLIC BUTTER PIPIS

500g pipis, cleaned  
4 garlic cloves, crushed  
lemon juiced  
75g or 5 tbsp salted butter,  
2 chillies, finely sliced  
fresh parsley, finely diced

In a large saucepan on medium heat, melt the butter. Add garlic and chili and cook for 3-4 minutes or until the garlic is soft and fragrant. Stir frequently. Squeeze the juice from half a lemon into the sauce and stir through.

Add the pips to the pan and stir through the sauce. Pop the lid on and increase the heat to high. Cook for 5 minutes or until the shells have opened. Shake the pan to encourage them to open.

Take the lid off and sprinkle the fresh parsley all over. Serve immediately with fresh rewana.

We also like pipis in a Thai coconut sauce. Add chopped fresh ginger, lemongrass, chili garlic sauce, Gochujang Sriracha sauce, coconut milk, and lime juice to your melted butter, bring to a simmer. Add pipis, cover, and cook for 8-10 minutes or until they all open. Throw away any that do not open. Sprinkle with chopped coriander.

**Pipi are available for harvest year-round. There's no apparent seasonality in the pipi fishery, meaning they can be found and collected throughout the year.**

*If you are trying pipis for the first time, they first need to be purged of sand. This is typically done by soaking them in cold, lightly salted water for several hours or overnight, allowing them to expel the sand. Do not refrigerate while purging, as they may close up and not release the sand.*

*Drain the pipis after soaking and rinse them thoroughly under cold, running water. You may need to repeat this rinsing process a few times to ensure all the sand is removed. After purging, pipis should be rinsed thoroughly, and any with broken shells or that remain closed after cooking should be discarded. If any pipis are open, gently tap them on the sink. If they don't close, they should also be discarded.*



### RĒWENA PARĀOA

Rēwena parāoa is a traditional Māori sourdough bread made from fermented potatoes. It is a perfect addition to any Matariki feast.

4 cups flour  
1 tsp sugar  
2 cups warm water  
1 tsp salt  
1 cup boiled, mashed potatoes  
1/2 cup sourdough or rēwena bug starter\*

In a large mixing bowl, combine the flour, salt, and sugar. In a separate bowl, mix together the mashed potatoes and warm water until smooth.

Add the sourdough starter to the potato mixture and stir until well combined.

Pour the potato mixture into the flour mixture and stir until a dough forms.

Knead the dough on a floured surface for 10-15 minutes. Place the dough in a greased bowl, cover with a cloth, and let it sit in a warm place for 6-8 hours.

Preheat your oven to 220°C.

Punch down the dough and shape it into a round loaf.

Place the loaf on a greased baking sheet and let it rise for another 30 minutes. Bake the bread for 35-40 minutes, or until it is golden brown.

\*Sourdough or rēwena bug starters can be found on the internet.

■ [matariki.co.nz/recipes/](http://matariki.co.nz/recipes/)



### MĀORI STEAM PUDDING

Māori steam pudding is a classic dessert that holds a special place in many Māori households. This comforting and sweet treat is typically served at family gatherings, celebrations, or alongside a hearty meal. It's a simple yet delicious pudding, traditionally steamed and often enjoyed with custard or cream. Over time, it has become a beloved part of Māori food culture.

1 cup flour  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 tsp butter, melted  
1 cup dried fruit (opt)  
1 tsp baking soda  
1 tbsp golden syrup  
1/2 cup milk  
1 tsp vanilla extract

In a bowl, sift together flour and baking soda. Add sugar, golden syrup, melted butter, and vanilla extract. Gradually mix in the milk to form a smooth batter. If using dried fruit, fold it in at this stage.

Grease a pudding basin or heatproof bowl. Pour the batter into the basin and cover with a tightly fitting lid or foil. Place



### BOIL UP:

2kg quality pork bones  
500g new potatoes, halved  
500g kumara, cut into large chunks  
500g cabbage, cut into chunks or sliced  
2 cups fresh watercress  
Salt and pepper  
Fresh Rewena bread, butter and tomato sauce, to serve

### Doughboys:

1 cup self raising flour  
1/4 cup water

In a large pot, cover the pork bones with water. Bring to a boil, then simmer, cover with a lid and cook for 1½ - 2 hours, removing any foamy stuff with a slotted spoon. After 1 hour, add the potatoes and kumara.

**To make the doughboys**, mix the flour, seasoning and water together to create a soft dough. You can add chopped parsley to add more flavour if desired.

With 15 minutes cooking time left, drop the cabbage and cress into the pot, then drop balls of the doughboy dough into the stock after a further 5 minutes.

Serve in bowls, with fresh buttered rēwena parāoa.

■ [newworld.co.nz](http://newworld.co.nz)



the basin in a large pot with enough water to come halfway up the sides of the bowl. Steam on low heat for 2-3 hours, checking the water level occasionally. Once cooked, turn pudding out onto a plate and serve with custard, cream, or golden syrup for an extra touch of sweetness. Māori steam pudding is more than just a dessert; it represents comfort, family, and the continuation of cultural traditions. Passed down through generations, it remains a favourite at both traditional gatherings and modern celebrations.

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## June artists at pottery club

**Ceramicist Christine Fagan, at left, and artist Karin McCombe, above, are the guest artists for June at the Ōtaki Pottery Club's Tote Modern Gallery.**

Christine lives in Levin but is a keen Ōtaki Pottery Club member. She has been shaping clay for more than 35 years, during which time she has tutored and mentored many artists.

Christine says when she first went to classes, she took to clay "like a duck to water", and continues to produce expressive and thought-provoking works.

Karin McCombe is a multi-disciplinary Welsh-New Zealand artist based in Pinehaven, Upper Hutt. She's well known for her vibrant acrylic paintings such as the one above ("... it's a self portrait, because I can be a bit of an ass myself," she says).

Karin was in 2023 invited by the British High Commission in Wellington to exhibit her Welsh landscape paintings in a specially curated Welsh-themed room, in celebration of King Charles's birthday. As a member of an international collective of 14 artists from seven countries, Karin is part of the ambitious touring exhibition Chain Reaction.

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## Ōtaki's first 80 years

By Sarah Maclean, Ōtaki Heritage

Ōtaki – Kāinga ki te taone iti, wāhanga 1, 1843-1920

Ōtaki – Kāinga to small town, part 1, 1843-1920

The opening of the new Ōtaki Heritage exhibition in May was enjoyed by many who were impressed by the high quality of the exhibits and the stylish way they are presented.

The exhibition covers the beginning and early growth of the town we call Ōtaki. This is the third in our series about Ōtaki (we started with the Railway, then moved to the Beach). Ōtaki/Hadfield was established in 1846, and that means next year marks our 180th anniversary.

The stories cover varied aspects of the town's first almost 80 years and are illustrated by photographs, plans of the town and maps associated with the period. Also on display are many of the items held in the Ōtaki Heritage collection.

We chose to concentrate on this period because of the huge changes that happened then. They include the impact on Māori land ownership during this time, and the development of schools, churches, banks and the cottage hospital as the town grew. These stories are complemented by profiles of some of the people who were important during this time.



A porcelain teapot, part of a souvenir set from the Ōtaki Cottage Hospital, on display at the Museum.

The exhibition is based on information from local histories and biographies, the records of organisations in the town, the Ōtaki Historical Journals, and Waitangi Tribunal claim documents.

The exhibition runs for the rest of this year and will be part of the Wellington Heritage Festival in October.

Part 2 of the exhibition, which will open next year, will cover the period from 1921, when Ōtaki became a borough, through to today – more changes and more stories.

Ōtaki Heritage would like to thank all those who contributed so much to bring this exhibition to life, particularly our trustees and volunteers: Rūpene Waaka, Hēni Jacob, Rex Kerr, Anthony Dreaver, Luke Richards, Kevin Garratt, Gail Mylne of Mixed Media Design, Kāpiti Coast District Council, The Philipp Family Foundation, and Web2Print.

Come along to the museum and learn more about the history of our town. Knowing about our past helps us understand more about the town we live in today. It's a great place to bring visitors to as well.

You can see the exhibition on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am-2 pm. We're closed on public holidays apart from Wellington Anniversary Day when we hold the very popular Clue Hunt.

### FROM THE ARCHIVES: PAPERS PAST

EVENING POST JUNE 26, 1914

#### SERIOUS FIRE AT ŌTAKI TOWN HALL & OTHER PREMISES DESTROYED HEAVY LOSS

ŌTAKI This Day. A disastrous fire during the night destroyed the Town Hall, the old newspaper offices, a garage, the Bank of Australasia, St. George's chemist's shop, and the district nurses' quarters. The outbreak was first seen about 1.30 am, and then had a good hold. Nothing was saved from the hall, but most of the things from the other places were saved.

Luckily the wind was favourable, and the Central Hotel was saved with difficulty. The fire broke out in the Town Hall, and the Central Hotel opposite had a very narrow escape. The Horticultural Society lost all its belongings, while the Ōtaki Maori Brass Band lost several instruments and £30 worth of music. The bank safes were opened this morning, and the contents were found to be intact, but scorched. Richard Bevan is a big loser, his moving picture plant being destroyed. The origin of the fire is a mystery. Had it occurred the previous night, when a high wind was blowing, the whole of the main parts of the town would probably have been destroyed, as there is no water supply here.

NEW ZEALAND TIMES,  
30 JUNE 1915

From Our Own  
Correspondent.

OTAKI, Tuesday.

The members of the Ōtaki Town Board being desirous of seeing better lighting facilities for the township, are approaching two companies with a view of getting one or the other to erect a plant and run it on a concession. At present the town is poorly lighted, the thirty lamps being totally inadequate for the growing needs of the district. Residents generally are showing much interest in the project, the majority wishing also for house installation. It is evident, judging from the activity displayed by the board, that in the course of a few months the town will be one of the best lighted on the coast. The local domain ground, now vested in the Town Board, has been put in splendid order, and is much appreciated by sports clubs and others. A very heavy roller has been secured and used with great advantage. The new road leading from the Ōtaki township to the beach is now well under way, and when finished should induce visitors to patronise one of the best beaches on the coast. It is Mr Byron Brown's intention to put two roads through his seaside property and give access to a splendid stretch of sand. Another road that will add greatly to the value of Ōtaki will be one to be made through the Mission property from Mill Road, and which will lead past the hospital towards the cemetery. The road leading to the latter place has long been a disgrace, funerals having to pass over a sandy waste for a mile or so.



The Ōtaki Maori Brass Band 1902

Photo: digitalnz.org

Much road improvement has lately been carried out in Ōtaki, but metal drays working on new roads turned the main street into a quagmire during the wet weather, and hence a coating of metal would not be amiss. Road encroachments, in the form of fences, have also been removed from Mill Road, and thus the thoroughfare is widened to its full width.

The Ōtaki Town Board is in the unfortunate position, of having no plan of the township. When, the board was first formed arrangements were made for one, but for some unaccountable reason it has been delayed for upwards of two years. Frequent applications have been made, but to no avail.

NEW ZEALAND TIMES MARCH 14, 1918  
FIRE AT OTAKI

At 11.15 on Monday night, a fire, presumably caused by rats, occurred at the rear of Messrs Sills and Moore's business premises, and with great rapidity spread to another shed, where it quickly consumed £80 of oil, etc. The acetylene gas house, plants, and a quantity of benzine was also destroyed, as well as adjoining

fences. The fire (reports our correspondent) was first noticed by Mr Arthur Penman, and with Mr T. Wells, the alarm was raised, and a crowd congregated just in time to prevent the fire reaching the main building. Had this caught alight half the main street of the township would have been blackened. The stock is insured in the Royal for £100; and the building for £60 hut Messrs Bills and Moore estimate their loss at £150 above this amount. Had it

not been for the fine work of a bucket brigade – there is no water supply – the fire would have proved disastrous.

NEW ZEALAND TIMES 8 APRIL 1915  
HOROWHENUA NOTES

The pea-rifle nuisance is still in evidence in Ōtaki, and a narrow escape from serious injury, perhaps death, occurred on Sunday. A young lady was walking in the vicinity of the post office when a bullet passed within six inches of her face. Only a week or so ago attention was drawn to the dangerous practice, a bullet having passed through, a window in the main street, and it is hoped now that the police will exert all their energies in tracing the culprit or culprits, with a view of bringing them, to their senses.

It is also stated that .303 bullets have done harm adjacent to the township, and that these appear to come from the direction of the sandhills near the cemetery. If parents allow their children to use dangerous weapons they may have to put up with the consequences, and if, on the other hand, parents use firearms injudiciously, then they deserve very severe punishment.

The erection of a party telephone wire to connect the Gorge settlers with Ōtaki is in progress, and when completed should be a boon to the inhabitants of the outlying district.



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# ŌTAKI STREET SCENE



**SCULPTURES IN CLAY** will be a core part of Jenn Leov's end of residency exhibition at The Kilns at Te Horo. The two-day exhibition will be on June 21-22, 10am-3pm, during Matariki weekend. During her three-month residency, Jenn has taken inspiration for her work from the cabbage trees in Te Horo and has been developing floral shapes. "I've also been experimenting with lots of different sized jugs to produce a range of sculptural art and domestic ware," Jenn says. "Come along, enjoy my work, and a sausage from the BBQ." Entry to The Kilns will be free during the two-day exhibition. For further information contact: Jenn Leov 021 155 6133.

## ART GALLERIES & ARTISTS

**ATB TATTOO STUDIO & GALLERY:** Arthur St. abandonthebox.co.nz

**AWATEA POTTERY:** Brent Craig, 19 Hadfield Rd, Peka Peka. 027 242 7572. Brightly coloured, functional domestic stoneware.

**BIRGIT MOFFATT:** Sculpture, textiles. 32 Parenga Rd, Ōtaki Gorge. 022 460 2695. birgitmoffatt.com

**HANNEKE KOOP:** Ceramics, pottery, textiles. 144 Te Waka Rd, Te Horo. hankoop@gmail.com

**HEI TIKI TOI:** Woodwork. 24 Iiti St. Ariana Summers 021 990 566, and Ben Keene 021 205 6052.

**THE HORI GALLERY:** 84 Moana St, Ōtaki Beach. thehori.co.nz

**JAILHOUSE POTTERY:** Jennifer Turnbull, 3 Iiti St, Ōtaki. 021 295 7473. jenniferturnbull.co.nz

**JAMES CARTER POTTERY:** 12 Waitaheke Rd, Te Horo. 022 672 7036. Tactile, fun and functional pottery for everyday use.

**JOS SMITH ART STUDIO:** Painting/drawing. 7a Lemon St. 027 614 4145.

**KARL ANDREWS:** Painter, karlandrews.art

**KATHRYN ENNIS-CARTER:** 55 Settlement Rd, Te Horo. 021 620 757. Ceramics and fibre/textiles.

**KENO SCULPTURES** 7 Byron

Brown Place, Ōtaki Beach. 021 855 088 • kenosculpture.co.nz

**KUKU CREATIVE** (GREG MOFFATT) phone 021 209 5912 or email kukumogs@gmail.co

**LINDSAY & NEIL HEY:** Lindsay - artist and printmaker 027 454 2374; Neil - master potter 027 443 9796, 6 Kingi te Ahoaho Pl. artsenvogue.co.nz

**LORNA TAWHITI:** may15tattoo.com e: lorna@may15tattoo.com

**LOUIE ZALK-NEALE** (Ngāi Te Rangī): 11 Millhaven Pl. Tī kōuka weaver & performance artist, wearable taonga, sculptures, drawings.

**MARGARET HUNT:** Ceramics, pottery. Studio at 173b Waearenga Rd. 06 364 8053 or 027 450 2726.

**OLD COURTHOUSE GALLERY:** 239-245 Old SH1. Artists collective. 027 445 7545

**ORGANIC DESIGN STUDIO:** 40 Miro St. Gavin Berry 021 051 3096, Karen McCall 027 226 2094, Sarah Shaw 021 452 465. odskapiti.com

**PAULA ARCHIBALD:** Ceramics, pottery, sculpture. 3 Bell St. 027 247 7488.

**ROD GRAHAM:** Clayworks, 35 Ngaio St, Ōtaki Beach. 027 445 7545.

**RAMILA PARBHU:** Studio, 1 Atmore Ave. Abstract expressionism. Ramila has a unique technique of creating alchemy with acrylic paints.

**ROSEMARY MORTIMER:** Printmaker. 306 Te Waka Rd, Te Horo. 027 236 7343. rosemartymortimer.com

**SARAH LANGE:** Rata St Studio, Rata St, Ōtaki Beach. Resin and mixed media 022 3177 613, Open by appointment.

**SAVAGE ART:** Sonia Savage, 35 Ngaio St, Ōtaki Beach. 027 244 7322.

**SEAGRASS GALLERY:** Grant Stevenson, 38 Moana St, Ōtaki Beach. 027 231 4643. seagrassgallery.co.nz

**SHELSHOK GALLERY:** Mixed media. Lynne O'Connor, 35 Dal Din Drive. 027 332 8649

**STACEY YOUNG:** The Tailor's Wife, 8 Freemans Rd. Beautifully hand carved, tactile tableware, candle sticks and goddess figurines.

**STUDIO RESET:** Encaustic artist. www.studioreset.art

**SUMMERSTONE GALLERY** 89 Ringawhati Rd, Ōtaki. 027 927 1591.

**TOI MATARAU:** Māoriland Hub, Main St. Open Mon-Sat 11-4pm, and by appt. Stunning traditional and contemporary Toi Māori.

**TOTE MODERN ART GALLERY:** Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, Te Roto Rd. Open Fri-Sun 10am-3pm. otakipotteryclub.co.nz

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## ŌTAKI YESTERDAY

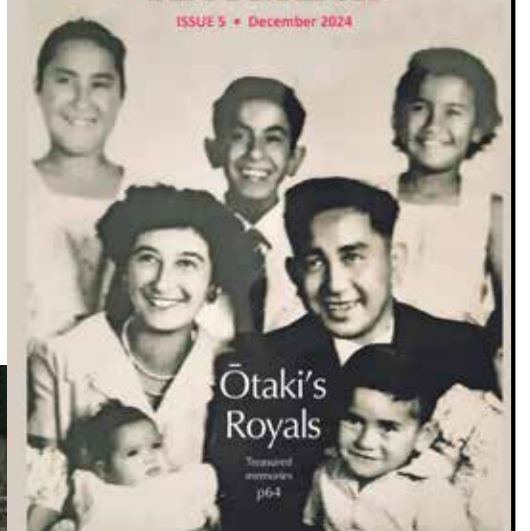
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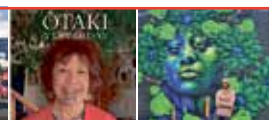


**ŌTAKI  
YESTERDAY**  
ISSUE 5 • December 2024





# ŌTAKI STREET SCENE



## Looking for some winter fun?



### OPEN MIC NIGHT AT THE RSA

Ōtaki RSA, 9 Raukawa Street, Ōtaki  
Saturday July 5, 6-9pm

Come along for open mic night – whether you can play, sing or just want a great night out listening to other talented people. Members, affiliated members and guests welcome. Held first Saturday of each month.



### KARAOKE AT THE RSA

Ōtaki RSA, 9 Raukawa Street, Ōtaki  
Saturday June 21, 6-9pm

Enjoy Karaoke night. Held each month, with a different theme – updated on Ōtaki RSA Facebook page. Restaurant open from 5pm and a shuttle will run in Ōtaki.

### HIGH TEA AT THE RSA

Ōtaki RSA, 9 Raukawa Street, Ōtaki Sunday July 13, 12-2pm.

Booking with payment must be made the week prior. Family friendly movie incl.



### 80'S DISCO EXTRAVAGANZA NIGHT

Ōtaki RSA, 9 Raukawa Street, Ōtaki  
Saturday July 19, 6-9pm.

Come dressed to impress. A fabulous night out with prizes for best dressed, and lots of 80's music to reminisce over. Members, affiliated members and guests welcome.

### MATARIKI 2025 – ŌTAKI POOL

Haruātai Park, 200 Mill Road, Ōtaki

Friday, June 20, 1-4pm

Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki invites you to their special Matariki event. Open to all whānau – from pēpi to kaumātua – to celebrate Matariki. Come together, unwind, and celebrate the Māori New Year. Tamariki must be supervised by whānau according to their age. Free entry to the pool, spa and sauna, aspiration board, delicious snack packs, and good yarns!



### ŌTAKI COLLEGE MATARIKI NIGHT MARKET

Ōtaki College, 33 Mill Road, Ōtaki  
Saturday June 21, 5-8pm

This annual college fundraiser, will entertain you with musician Casual Healing, their own Ōtaki College Kapa Haka Roopu, bands Cut the Power, and The Pretty Boys, fire performances and Wellington's Makume Taiko Drummers. Dress warmly, turn up early with the family for a variety of kai for dinner, and lots of stalls with beautiful locally crafted products, and tastefully curated recycled clothing.



### MATARIKI RACES 2025

Friday June 20, gates open 11am, first race at 12:02pm, last race at 4:12pm.

8 races. \$5 entry fee for 18 yo and over, free kids entertainment, food carts, special performances, members stand open to all.



### PUANGA KEI RUNGA!

Māoriland Hub, 68 Main Street, Ōtaki  
June 21 - August 23, open Monday-Friday 11am - 4pm, Saturday 10 - 4pm

A contemporary and traditional Indigenous art exhibition to honour the diversity of Māori knowledge systems. All are welcome to the opening of the exhibition at 10am, June 21. Featured works by: Lewis Gardiner, Ed Archie, NoiseCat, Susan Barrett, Elaine Bevan, Francene Wineti, Numa MacKenzie, and many more.



### MĀORILAND PRESENTS MATARIKI RAMAROA

Ōtaki Memorial Hall, Main St, Ōtaki  
Saturday, June 21, 10am-3pm

The heart of Ōtaki will once again be lit up with live music, food trucks, bouncy castles, market stalls, and art displays.

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Saturday 21st June 5-8pm

**MATARIKI NIGHT MARKET**  
Entry by Koha

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The Pretty Boys  
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Lynley Solomon (nee Roach).

Photo supplied

## Good to get away, great to be back home

By Lynley Roach

I was born in Ōtaki and lived here until I travelled all the way to Wellington when I was 17 years old.

My dad, Pat Roach, was also born here and lived all his life in Ōtaki. My mum, Glenda, was from the South Island, but lived in Ōtaki after marrying Dad.

My ties to this town run deep; lots of whānau and friends are either living or buried here. I have the best memories of growing up with my sister, Fleur, and brother Chris.

My husband and I left New Zealand in 1986. We bought a one-way ticket to Melbourne to start a world trip. We were so naive. We had no jobs and very little in the way of savings.

We'd also never been to another country before. I guess Australia was a soft landing as it was similar to New Zealand in a lot of ways. We needed to get jobs before we could go any further so we door-knocked and it wasn't too long before we were in jobs.

Australians loved employing Kiwis because our work ethic is great and we aren't precious about getting the job done with minimal fuss and maximum efficiency.

After two years in Melbourne, one child later and with another on the way, we got the opportunity to move to Hong Kong. We didn't even know if they had hospitals in Hong Kong.

After flying into Kai Tak Airport (at right) looking at people's washing hanging out the windows. we wondered what we'd got into. We definitely hit the ground running, but ended up staying in Hong Kong until 2009.

Having decided to move back to New Zealand, we got side-tracked and moved back to Melbourne, where we stayed until 2024.

It was a big decision to move back to Ōtaki after so much time, but here we are. It's definitely been an adventure, but our town is so special and has so much going for it. I'm so proud to have been born here.

## Pat Roach's famous in Ōtaki bacon & egg pie

12 eggs  
1 onion  
Grated cheese  
6 puff pastry sheets  
1 packet of bacon  
Salt and pepper  
Milk

Preheat your oven to 180 degrees. Line your baking dish with pastry. Break your eggs into a large mixing bowl. Add your chopped onion, chopped bacon and as much cheese as you want. Dad used heaps of cheese, it adds so much flavour. He used to make it for us on Sundays so we'd have something to eat while they had friends over. There really weren't any measurements for ingredients, you go by look. Add milk in small amounts until you have a nice consistency, not too runny though. Mix it all together and season with salt and pepper. Pour the mixture into your baking dish. Top with the extra pastry sheets. Using a fork, prick the top of the pie. If you have



any left over pastry, fashion the letter "P" and put it on top of your pie. Place in your preheated oven and cook for 45-60 minutes. While you wait for it to cook, crack open your tippie of choice.



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# Skatepark on work plan

The Ōtaki skatepark in Aotaki Street is coming to the end of its expected life and is to get a rebuild – just when is not clear.

Meantime, however, it will be maintained to keep it safe. Kāpiti Coast District Council group manager customer and community Brendan Owens says a rebuild is on the future capital works programme and will be considered as part of the next Long-term Plan. A recent safety audit identified problems at the Waikanae skatepark that

were serious enough to close it. It also showed that at Ōtaki there was some chipping, cracks and gaps. “We have budget to do remedial repairs until the skatepark can be rebuilt,” Brendan says. “Now we have a good picture of what needs to be done, this work will be programmed into our operational work plan over the coming months.” Remedial work will extend the usability and safety of the skatepark until funding is available to replace it. “In the meantime, it’s safe to use,”

Brendan says. “I’d also note that larger wheeled apparatus like BMX bikes and scooters tend to cope OK with this kind of damage. “The problem is mainly for skateboards with their smaller wheels.” He says some of the issues raised such as fall heights are a function of the norms of the day when it was built – they wouldn’t meet modern standards but have been present without issue for many years. “The replacement will meet today’s standards.”

## LETTER

### Wasteful expenditure

All councils regularly come under fire for wasteful expenditure and at some point some person had to have had an idea to come up with that decision to spend money. What I saw in the main street of Ōtaki this month surely must come under that category and in my view is a total waste of money, some person’s time and can only be described as risible! I am referring to the decision to waste money by painting on the public rubbish bins . . . what I can only assume is the Māori word for rubbish! Who made this decision? How much did it cost? Are we to assume that if this word wasn’t there, we wouldn’t know what the bin was for? Clearly, it is yet another attempt to promote the language but I for one think there are limits and this is an example of sheer inanity. What next? All the Ōtaki Stop/Go men with signs written in te reo? Enough already! Jonathon Harrison, Ōtaki

## Feedback sought on emissions strategy

### Feedback is being sought on Kāpiti Coast District Council’s draft Emissions Reduction Strategy.

The proposed strategy outlines the principles and pathways to help achieve the council’s aspirational goal of “net zero” emissions throughout Kāpiti by 2040. “This is not just about meeting targets – we want to maximise the economic, social and community benefits of a low carbon economy for everyone who lives and works in Kāpiti, such as healthier homes, and lower energy costs,” says Cr Sophie Handford, chair of the Strategy, Operations and Finance Committee and deputy chair of the Climate and Environment Committee. “We want to strengthen council’s existing climate action and make it easier for residents and businesses to reduce emissions.” She says Kāpiti Coast’s emissions have reduced 6 percent since the first regional emissions inventory was undertaken in 2018/19. “We need to identify the systems change that is required so we can coordinate and accelerate our efforts.” Feedback closes at midnight on Sunday, June 22. ■ Go to: [haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/EmissionsReductionStrategy](https://haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/EmissionsReductionStrategy) to review the draft Emissions Reduction Strategy and to submit feedback.

## BRIEFS



### Shared path all linked up

The Waitohu Stream bridge clip-on (above) is now open. It’s the final link in the Ōtaki shared path, which connects with the Mackays to Peka Peka shared path. It means there’s now an off-road pathway linking from north of Ōtaki to as far south as Paekākāriki.

### Rates rise 6.9 percent

Kāpiti Coast District Council has set its rates increase at 6.9 percent for the 2025-26 year. The council says the rates will cover some important capital projects, including upgrades to the Paraparaumu Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Waikanae Water Treatment Plant, and building Te Ara Whetū, the new library in Waikanae. The council is also progressing its financial strategy to reduce debt by \$153 million by 2034, building capacity to respond to natural disasters and maximise growth opportunities. “It’s all about making sure Kāpiti is well-placed for whatever the future brings, because if the last few years have taught us anything it’s to expect the unexpected,” the council said.

### Only 13 call-outs

The Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade had only 13 all-outs in May (21 in April). Five were attend private fire alarms; two were for rubbish, grass or scrub fires; two medical emergencies; two to assist in Levin; and there was motor vehicle crash, and one “special service” (a helicopter landing). There were no property fires.

## ADVERTORIAL

# Rob Kofoed developing Ōtaki’s natural space

By Cr ROB KOFOED

Since moving to Ōtaki back in the early ‘90s, I’ve been lucky enough to get stuck into all sorts of projects around our local parks, reserves, and open spaces. One of the big ones was back in 2013, when I teamed up with Max Lutz to breathe new life into the old Sanatorium site. At the time, it was pretty overgrown and messy—gorse, brambles, the works. But with some help from the council, it’s been transformed into a stunning walkway that winds through beautiful old trees and native bush.



Rob and Max Lutz working on the Sanatorium pathway in 2013.

I still remember the very first planting day with the Friends of the Ōtaki River (FOTOR) in 2005 – hard to believe how far things have come! Over the years, there have been heaps of awesome plantings all along the river, many of them sponsored by local families. Our own Kofoed family even got involved in 2023, and it’s been really cool watching those plants take off and settle in.



The Kofoed family on the day they sponsored a planting on the riverbank.

These days, the river development is spreading out to include the Winstones Lakes area. I’ve been helping out recently with getting a toilet facility installed there, again with support from the council. I’ve also pitched in on a few other FOTOR projects over the years – helping build the kiosk by the river (photo below), the boardwalk near the estuary, and even the nursery shed at the Friends’ HQ.



What’s especially awesome is that there’s still such a dedicated crew showing up every Wednesday to do the mahi – planting and potting heaps of native plants.



The ‘Kofoed Bus’ – Rob’s truck put to use transporting members of the Friends of the Ōtaki River.

More recently, I’ve taken on a new role as a trustee with the Kāpiti Coast Trails Trust. We’ve got a big vision: creating a whole network of trails that stretch north and south across Kāpiti, and from the mountains right down to the sea—linking up existing tracks and building brand new ones. It’s a pretty exciting time for Ōtaki!.

Rob is an Ōtaki-based district-wide councillor at Kāpiti Coast District Council. He recently announced he would stand for the Ōtaki Ward at the next local body elections in October. He is running regular paid articles in this newspaper.



# HUATAU/Comment

PLAIN SPEAKING: IAN CARSON

## Milestone reached as resilient reservoir nears completion

**A major milestone will be reached with the blessing of the Ōtaki Reservoir on June 13.**

The reservoir roof concrete was poured successfully in March, followed by post-tensioning of the sections and removal of the temporary supporting structures. This was followed by sealing of internal joints, installing access hatches and ladders, and tidying up the site.

After disinfecting and quality testing, the reservoir will be filled and brought into action.

This will be one of the strongest structures in the area, designed to withstand a one-in-2500 year earthquake. The design allows for



some movement, and the pipework includes flexible joints.

The planting around the reservoir was completed late last year alongside the community, with 2500 native trees and flaxes on the site. Hopefully the planting will go some way to softening the impact on neighbouring properties that have been affected by this major project.

The reservoir (and a second one

soon to be built) will provide much needed additional water supply and contribute to a strong network of water infrastructure across the district.

This quality water service delivery has enabled us to move forward with plans to keep our water services in-house as we continue to move through the Local Water Done Well process.

Over the past couple of months we've been engaging with the community about whether they would prefer a joint entity with Palmerston North, Manawātū and Horowhenua, or whether they would prefer a stand alone in-house business unit.

Those two final options were the

result of over a year of consideration of different possible models, including joining with the Wellington Region and a two-council model with Horowhenua.

The vast majority (well over 90 percent) told us they'd prefer us to retain our own water services, and at last month's council meeting we confirmed that we'd move forward with that option. The next step is developing our Water Services Delivery Plan, which we are required to complete by September.

Another major project coming along well is the Ōtaki Gorge Road project. Clearing the slip is progressing well with most of the slip material already removed.

It's been fortunate that there's an

opportunity to dispose of most of the material nearby, which reduces the cost of moving the material away.

Some of the existing retaining is able to be re-used, but some needs to be replaced to support the road. This may add a few weeks to the project, but it should still be finished this month or next.

This has been a challenging project, so it's particularly heartening to hear that it's going reasonably smoothly and without major hurdles so far.

Please do try to stay clear of the area until the work is completed. There will be plenty of time for day trips and camping in the warmer months, all going well!

■ Janet is Kāpiti's mayor

THE ELECTORATE: TIM COSTLEY, MP

## Fantastic job of dispersing hoons

**Bringing back memories of last June in Miro Street, we recently had idiots trying to take over local roads with outright dangerous behaviour.**

People were hit and seriously injured by cars in Levin, which is why I keep saying don't go and watch these and don't let your kids go. Our police did a fantastic job, and quickly dispersed these unwanted hoons and drove them out of town. They saved many more injuries, more disorder, and more damage. I spent the next night with police, delivering supper and thanking them in person along with our police minister and the commissioner.

In better news, Transport Minister Chris Bishop and I announced we will be consulting on increasing the speed limit on SH1 Transmission Gully and Raumati



Straights to 110km/h. This then connects to the Kāpiti expressway which is already at 110km/h. This proposed speed increase would cut the travel time for the 22,000 vehicles using Transmission Gully daily and increase productivity for businesses across our region and north.

As always, safety is paramount in these decisions. Transmission Gully was designed and constructed to a high safety standard and this is reflected in the low crash numbers on the road since opening in 2022. It has safety features that greatly reduce the risk of death or serious injury in a crash, like two lanes in each direction, and a flexible median barrier between opposing lanes. Since opening, there have been more than 150 barrier strikes but no deaths.

Please share your thoughts and I will present our results to NZTA: [www.national.org.nz/tgrs110](http://www.national.org.nz/tgrs110)

I want our region to be supported by the safest, most efficient transport network in the country. That's why I'm also fighting for changes to the Ōtaki to North of Levin section of road (Ō2NL). I'm disappointed by changes that NZTA recently announced, particularly removal of the interchange at Tararua Road, the southbound onramp at Taylors Road and the bridge at Manakau Heights. This would mean more through traffic in Ōtaki.

None of these decisions are made by me or any MP. They have been suggested by NZTA staff and still need to be approved by the NZTA board. I have not given up on fighting for the best outcome. I want to see Ōtaki thrive, but also transiting traffic kept to a minimum. Send me your thoughts: [national.org.nz/levingateway](http://national.org.nz/levingateway)

■ Tim is the Ōtaki electorate MP

CAM'S CORNER: CAM BUTLER

## Revocation works under way at shopping area

*Tēnā koutou whanau o Ōtaki.*  
**Old SH1 revocation works**

You will have noticed some lane changes near New World and the BP. This is the start of the revocation of the Old SH1 shopping area.

This will be ongoing for the rest of the year as the contractors reconstruct a small portion each time to minimise disruption. And by minimise, I mean, there will be a lot of disruption, however they are trying their best to get it done.

The Ōtaki and Te Horo Business Association has been great with their involvement alongside the Ōtaki Community Board and KCDC, and their communication to affected parties.

The lights at Riverbank Road are progressing well with an operational date in August. While understandable that the concept of lights is not palatable to many residents, it will greatly increase safety for those turning out of the quarry and Riverbank Road.



### Freedom camping

The Ōtaki Community Board presented to KCDC to represent the community views where KCDC had proposed to allow up to 14 overnight parking spots in the carpark at the end of Tasman Road right where locals like to sit and watch the sunset.

While there needs to be some accommodation of overnight parking, we understood the community opposition to the number and placement of the parks.

Also to note that the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw does not take into account the Ōtaki rivermouth as that is not on council property. We presented that ignoring the

rivermouth was ridiculous and needed to be considered when looking at the number allocated to Ōtaki.

We are optimistic that the council staff have got the message from both the ŌCB and other Ōtaki locals that submitted and spoke to the hearing.

### To stand or not to stand

Decision made and I am going to stand for the Ōtaki community again.

Sucker for punishment you might say, however I love helping the Ōtaki community out and many projects take more time than one three-year slot.

There are more challenges ahead for the community with the growth of Ōtaki, Ō2NL etc and the community board can be at the forefront of assisting with these challenges.

Keep being Sunny, Ōtaki.  
• Like our Ōtaki Community Board Facebook page.  
■ Cam is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board.

TE HORO OUTLOOK: MICHAEL MOORE

## Te Horo – an active, caring community

**After the successful launch of Predator Free Te Horo Beach more than a year ago, supported by the Friends of Te Horo Beach residents' association and organiser David Walshaw, local John Draper is co-ordinating the establishment of Predator Free Te Horo.**

This new group will allow those beyond the beach village to get involved in predator trapping on their own property. These programmes have a significant and immediate effect to help protect birds and other native wildlife.

Come along to Te Horo Hall on Saturday, June 21 from 11am-2pm, and you'll be able to pick up a rat or stoat trap and also enjoy a sausage from the barbecue. Their email is [pftehor@gmail.com](mailto:pftehor@gmail.com)

Greater Wellington Regional Council has installed traps near the Mangaone Stream/Lagoon mouth at Te Horo Beach and has also placed traps and bait stations north along the coastal catchment to Ōtaki River.

In addition to the traps handed out to local residents, there are 46 traps and 30 bait



stations along our coastal environment. If you'd like to volunteer to help monitor traps, we can organise some basic training – please get in touch: [tinyurl.com/MikeKapiti](http://tinyurl.com/MikeKapiti)

There are now predator free groups across Kāpiti. Most have been inspired from the extraordinary success of Predator Free Wellington that has been led by Te Horo resident James Wilcox. Check out this fascinating video: [tinyurl.com/PFreeWELLY](http://tinyurl.com/PFreeWELLY)

Another great project coming up on the weekend of 15th and 16th November is the return of the Te Horo Country Garden Trail, and run by the Te Horo Hall Society. This is a wonderful weekend and will showcase gardens across our rural community. This event celebrates our area and gets hundreds of visitors to see and explore our rural community. There will be some other events

held in conjunction with the weekend's event, based at the Hall.

The garden trail was last held over five years ago, and is eagerly looked forward to from gardeners around the region, from Manawatu to Wellington. Funds go to support the Hall. If you'd like to be involved, especially with volunteers on the weekend, please get in touch and email [tehor.hall@gmail.com](mailto:tehor.hall@gmail.com) [TeHoroHall.org.nz](http://TeHoroHall.org.nz)

After our June Community Board meeting, there's just two left before our October Council election: July 22nd (Waikanae) and the final one on September 2nd (Te Horo Hall).

Just a reminder, our community grants close two weeks before our meetings, namely 8th July and 19th August. Info available here: [tinyurl.com/WCBgrants](http://tinyurl.com/WCBgrants)

Waikanae Community Board meetings now commence at 6:30pm. You can follow the Board's news and info here: [facebook.com/WaikanaeCommunityBoard](https://facebook.com/WaikanaeCommunityBoard)  
• Next Waikanae Community Board meeting 6.30pm Tuesday, July 22, at Waikanae Community Centre, 28 Utaauta St, Waikanae



# AI, here we come . . . boom or bust

**Artificial Intelligence (AI) is seeping into our daily lives whether we accept it or not.**

Everything from your supermarket shop and the church sermon to the design of the footpath outside your house is likely getting the AI treatment.

Like any enabling technology, it at first challenges what we routinely accept as “normal” and agreeable. However it’s worth remembering that every advance in technology challenges these things to a degree.

But let’s be real, AI is a massive shift. The long-term impacts of this pervasive technology will shape industries, societies, and daily life in ways we’re only beginning to comprehend.

People are understandably nervous. Notions are everywhere of loss of control to rampant machines, job displacements to automation, data-driven disinformation, concerns about privacy, etc, etc. These issues are real and can only escalate as the technology feeds upon itself to create ever more spectacular capabilities, for good and bad.

In essence we have now reached the point where if we can imagine something, we can create it, whether that’s ways to eliminate diseases or for a madman to poison everyone in a city.

In this sense, all the benefits of efficiency and automation, rapid problem solving, accessibility and inclusion are also available for people who wish to do harm.

Nevertheless, given the gigantic impact, it’s hard to put AI into the context of our daily lives, but put it into context we must. One way we can do that is to consider the arc and impact of past technological shifts.

In my own experience I recall working in television production, about 1980, when there was a shift from the use of film in programme making to digital. It was a difficult change and I recall, particularly in areas like news and documentary making, film crews held fast to the old technology while more progressive or younger crews waxed lyrical about the advantages of digital. Despite that and the early limitations of the new technology, it was inevitable that film would ultimately lose out and giant companies like Kodak would disappear one day.

At this time I was involved in the production of film animations for things like the opening titles of *Ready To Roll (RTR)*. In 1979, for a 30-second opening sequence, it took about four months to create the images and laboriously have them filmed. Then in 1980 TVNZ bought Grass Valley mixing panels that enabled quick and easy digital image movement, displacing much of the need for slow film animation.

Initially many of the early adopters were technical operators who had little skill or appreciation for good design and art direction, resulting in visual work that was truly awful. One only needs to check out TV production work from the early 1980s on YouTube to see the extent to which graphics were stacked and streamed to look like a hallucination dream

from a Duran Duram concert.

While the TVNZ accountants were certainly happy that production had been streamlined, therefore costing much less, the quality found its way to the sewer.

Over time, however, designers and art directors got their hands on this new technology and began to use it as an enabling tool, but managing it with their expertise and visual skills. Then, along with a relentless cascade of improvements to digital technology, the marriage of tools and human design skills saw a revolution in moving image making.

Is there a lesson for AI in this?

The one I would make is that AI can help deliver a revolution in everything, but only if there is a human attached to it, including all its outputs and outcomes.

That means we should embrace it, partly because it’s a reality and there’s absolutely no way of stuffing it back in a box, but mostly because it has the power to positively change our lives. That surely means we must manage and control it with global agreements, country legislation and never ever let it simply breed itself to the exclusion of some form of human control.

Most of us would advocate for all the benefits, including humanity sharing fairly in the fruits. But for those anarchists and libertarians who insist we should allow it to run free, without legislative or any human control, you are abandoning humanity and our millions of years of painful evolution and progress.

Under that scenario, we will inevitably lose.

■ Fraser is founder of the community development websites [flightdec.com](#), [knowthis.nz](#) and [inhub.org.nz](#)



Image AI generated from Pixabay.com

## Genital Herpes research study

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# Cam puts hand up for ward seat

Cam Butler is contesting the Ōtaki Ward seat in the October local body elections.

He joins current ward councillor Shelly Warwick and district-wide councillor Rob Kofoed in a fight for the position.

Cam says he's seeking the Ōtaki seat because he feel a strong connection with Ōtaki, rather than the wider Kāpiti area – standing for a district-wide seat was not something that came into his mind.

"I've been on the Ōtaki Community Board for 4 ½ years and the last 2½ years of that as chair," he says. "I have felt honoured to be able to work on behalf of the community on issues ranging from roadworks, future planning, safety and many more.

"I feel there is more to do and more I can give to help the Ōtaki community.

"Outside of the standard mahi with grants, road naming etc, the community has benefited from our work on CCTV for safety, our work to assist with Ōtaki police numbers, a very high degree of representation at all KCDC meetings and workshops, a great relationship with Ngā Hāpu o Ōtaki, safety workshops that brought together many govt departments, KCDC, kura etc, the dissolution of Elevate Ōtaki and subsequent initial set-up of the Ōtaki



**Cam Butler**  
and Te Horo Business Association and more.

"As well as continually advocating on behalf of the community at KCDC meetings including the boy racer issues, we have gone into bat for the community to Greater Wellington about a number of issues, Waka Kotahi NZTA, NZ Police and the government."

He says there are also smaller things the community board works on day-to-day, such as tree issues, water problems, parking, pool design etc.

Cam says Ōtaki is facing the challenge of population growth and an evolving community, while there are several long-term issues that will take time to address.

Asked if he had any special projects he wanted to work on as a councillor, he picked the redevelopment of the library and Memorial Hall into a modern community hub.

"This an exciting, long-term project that I want to be involved in. It could deliver some fantastic services for Ōtaki if done well."

He says he's been integral to the Vision Ōtaki work, along with developing strong relationships with the mayor, councillors and KCDC staff.

Outside of the library project, there are also big issues with a lack of services in health, public transport, youth support and crime prevention.

"These are a continual work in progress and are not quick fixes, however I am determined to keep working on these."

Cam sees the Ōtaki of the future being a vibrant, thriving town that continues to hold its head high while staying true to its Māori and diverse cultures.

## ŌTAKI COMMUNITY: SIMON BLACK

### Help shape Ōtaki's future

**Do you have a passion for our community? Is there a local issue you care deeply about?**

This October's local body elections are your chance to step up and help shape the future of Ōtaki.

I love our community, and as deputy chair of the Ōtaki Community Board (and a volunteer firefighter), I've had the privilege of representing our town and helping drive positive change in Ōtaki and Kāpiti over the last three years. I'll be standing again this year because many of the projects I've helped initiate, such as our Vision Ōtaki roadmap, need another term to bring to life.

Being on a community board means becoming a community leader – supporting local initiatives, working with Kāpiti Coast District Council committees, and having a say on important issues like speed limits, freedom camping, antisocial driving, and building community resilience.

Ōtaki needs passionate, open-minded, community-focused people who are good listeners, team players, and ready to make a difference. If you're committed, reliable, and have a vision for our town's future, I encourage you to consider standing for the Ōtaki Community Board this October.

The role makes a tangible difference. Over the past term, the team has worked to secure better police staffing, progress a CCTV initiative, and help establish our local business association with \$100,000 in seed funding. These wins came through teamwork. While campaigning is generally a solo effort, serving on the board is truly a team sport, and I have been privileged to work with an amazing, dedicated team this term.

If you have a vision – be it sustainability, youth wellbeing, or safer streets – this is your opportunity. To stand, you'll need to register, write a profile, and run a modest campaign (around \$1500 for signage and flyers). Most importantly, bring a reason to stand and the drive to serve.

Fresh voices and thoughts are always welcome. If you're ready to lend a hand and lead, now's your time. Stand for the community board, and stand for Ōtaki. If you have any questions, contact me at: [simon.black@kapiticoast.govt.nz](mailto:simon.black@kapiticoast.govt.nz)

■ Simon is deputy chair of the Ōtaki Community Board



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# Our leaders show how little they understand

**I**f Maworeefication is a word, what's the one for: My great-grandmother's generation having their lands and homes confiscated, my nana's generation being beaten for speaking their only language at school and being told to scrub the brown off their skin, my dad's generation having their names changed by their teachers from Māori to English and having to pretend to be Spanish so they could get into establishments that didn't allow Māori – and then pretend all of that didn't happen.

## GOOD THINKING



PERA BARRETT

When this generation (like those before) try to address some of those impacts, we get called activists and the songs we perform get called "a load of crap".

What's the word for leaders who serve only their own interests?

Or leaders responsible for taking us to a better tomorrow, but can't see past today?

Last month, the leader of the House, the deputy prime minister, and the prime minister – the leaders of our country – showed us how little they understood about the world outside their bubble, or beyond their seat at an awards night.

The leader of the House felt comfortable enough while sitting next to the minister for



treaty negotiations, to call a celebration of Te Tiriti o Waitangi the Aotearoa Music Awards, "a load of crap".

When asked about it, he said: "I probably should have kept my thoughts to myself."

Not: "Maybe I should reconsider if celebrating the treaty – a key component of our constitutional framework – is actually a load of crap."

Not: "I know that within a couple of generations of the treaty being signed to ensure Māori wouldn't have to change who they were in our new nation, Māori children were beaten at school for speaking their own language, ancestral lands and homes were confiscated, and the document itself was put in a drawer and literally lost for decades – so we all need reminding of its importance."

Not: "I know the school system carried out the government's policies of assimilation, punished and traumatised Māori children for being themselves. I know those children then carried that experience through to

become adults raising their own children still traumatised about their very identity and culture."

It wasn't a surprising reminder. His last job before becoming an MP for National and leader of the House was lobbying the government on behalf of the tobacco industry – ie, finding ways to get around any public opposition to how people are being harmed/killed by a \$1.5 trillion industry profiting more (literally their purpose).

The deputy prime minister's only real comment on the treaty being a load of crap, was: "It may be that people will agree with him", and that people will make up their own minds.

The actual prime minister didn't think it was worth commenting on at all.

These reminders are consistent. It's giving tobacco industry: If I'm not the one being harmed, why should I care? People can make up their own mind, right?

But that's the job of government, and of any

leader: to care not just about the people who look and think like you (even if that's who votes for you next time). Leadership means thinking about more than just yourself.

It also means thinking further ahead than just today.

While giving us these reminders, these guys and Winston Peters agreed with Act to introduce something called the Regulatory Standards Bill, which in effect means all new laws, and those laws that currently exist, will need to be reviewed and approved by David Seymour's direction as minister of regulation and a board he'll set up.

It removes the current approach to law-making and replaces it with one from a guy who thought he should get to re-write what the treaty meant.

This bill will give the power to shape 100 percent of the actual laws we live by, to an extreme-view party that 8 percent of the population voted for.

If you don't think that's a good idea, make a submission today. It takes 40 seconds to complete. You don't have to make an oral submission, just tick "No" to that question.

Just Google: "Regulatory standards bill submission."

Then under Comment: I oppose this bill.

Recommendation: This bill should not proceed.

If you don't, this bill will likely go ahead. Yeah, that's 30 seconds of your life gone today, but think about what tomorrow might look like if these are the guys re-defining and creating the laws our children and their environment are shaped by.

■ Pera (Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai, Ngāti Toa Rangitira) is a rap singer, story writer, and the Local Hero recipient at the 2019 New Zealander of the Year awards.

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# MAHI MĀRA/Gardening

## Living mulch for healthy fruit trees



**Fruit trees, on the whole, do best with a living mulch – a covering of plants (yes, that includes grass and weeds)!**

A living mulch is not only super fertile, but it's loads easier for you, too – a topic in and of itself that I will save for another day. Today is all about woody mulch, because fab as living mulches are, wood has its place, mainly as a starter mulch beneath newly planted until living mulch establishes.

- Low growing fruiting plants like shrubs, berries and dwarf citrus don't always suit a living mulch, especially in high rainfall places, or where groundcover plants grow strongly and swamp them. An annual woody mulch helps keep air flowing around and through, and keeps overall health high.
- Poor soils, especially ones with sparse groundcover, also benefit from an annual application to cover any bare ground and promote beneficial fungi. Don't use grass clippings, straw or manure.



EDIBLE GARDEN  
KATH IRVINE

Trees aren't like vegies, they need wood! Not all wood mulch though is made equal. The ultimate is ramial chip, which is made from the small branches and twigs around the outside of the tree. It's full of carbs and nutrients and enzymes – all the goodies that the tree sends out to the new growth, buds and leaves, and as such excites the beneficial fungi, ergo benefits the soil and trees the most.

Arborists are a good source. Otherwise invest in a grunty chipper, a groovy thing to share in a community.

Chip made from trunks and large branches isn't as nutritious, but even so adds carbon and organic matter. Improve it by letting it break down before using. Get a load in ahead of time and let it sit on the earth and grow fungal threads.

To make your own fruit tree mulch use any of these, solo or together – nature loves a mixture!

- Roughly chopped small branches, for example un-chipped ramial chips. Awesome!
- The rustic collection of chips under the wood



From left, a mixed woody mulch, rustic style; thriving fungal networks; and ramial mulch.

shed.

- Leaves are awesome. Leaves from deciduous trees are best. Some evergreens in the mix is AOK.

Apply your mulch one of two ways; as a weed suppressing mat or a health promoting sprinkle.

Mulch to suppress weeds: Do this if you need to subdue strong grass/weed growth around young trees, poorly trees, or low growing shrubs/berries. Slash the grass back about a square metre around the tree, then lay wet cardboard or newspaper on top and cover with woodchip. Leave an air gap around the trunk.

Mulch to boost health: When weed suppression isn't required but you feel your orchard could do with a little pick-me-up, scatter ramial chip hither and yon – on top on the groundcover plants (living mulch), beneath, around and between fruit trees – as if you were ye olde peasant sowing seed. These little nuggets will entice microbes and add a bit more life wherever they land.

*Kath has been growing vegetables to feed her family for 21 years. Spray-free, natural, low-input food gardens are her thing. Kath offers organic gardening advice through her articles, books, workshops, and consultations.*

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# HAUORA-PŪTAIO /Health-science

## Kennedy ready to raid the hen house

**Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental condition characterised by communication, social interaction, and behavioural differences and problems that typically develop by the age of 3.**

A recent report from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that the reported incidence of autism spectrum disorder in the US has increased substantially since 2000.

Robert F Kennedy Jr, recently appointed by President Donald Trump as the US Secretary of Health and Human Services, has proclaimed that “the autism epidemic has now reached a scale unprecedented in human history”, and he is determined to find the “environmental exposures” behind the rise of autism diagnoses.

He says that by September “we will know what has caused the autism epidemic, and we’ll be able to eliminate those exposures”.

Health professionals in the field are deeply concerned about Kennedy’s statements, so much so that a coalition of autism scientists has formed to refute Kennedy’s misinformation about autism spectrum disorder.

The scientific community points out that much of the increase in the prevalence of autism is simply due to an ever-broadening definition of what autism is; allowing a wider range of symptoms, and milder symptoms, for a diagnosis.

In addition, several previously distinct disorders, including Asperger’s syndrome, are now consolidated under the single umbrella term of autism spectrum disorder, and autism and ADHD are no longer considered to be mutually exclusive, so a person can now be co-diagnosed with both.

Heightened awareness, reduced stigma, and increased screening for autism have also contributed substantially to its rise in reported prevalence. Wherever we look harder and screen more (for example, adults not previously diagnosed, females, disadvantaged minority groups with poor health access) reported prevalence simply increases.

But Kennedy sees only a growing epidemic fuelled by some environmental toxin – so much so that he has called for an end to genetic research into autism saying that “I don’t think we should be funding that genetic work any more”.

This stands in direct contrast to the scientific understanding that autism has a strong genetic basis.

Studies have already identified more than 200 genes associated with autism susceptibility. And to gain a deeper understanding of how genetic and environmental factors might interact in shaping autism, ongoing genetic research remains indispensable.

Potential environmental risk factors for autism occur largely in utero and include maternal bacterial or viral infections, maternal stress, maternal obesity, pregnancy complications like gestational diabetes, prenatal exposure to air pollutants, poor prenatal diet, preterm birth and birth complications. However, the results of these studies are often mixed, and the observed effects of these risk factors are small.

After decades of research, it’s clear that autism is a complex heterogeneous condition and that there is no single “smoking gun” environmental cause for it. So, it makes absolutely no sense when Kennedy says that he will be able to identify and eliminate the cause of the autism epidemic by September. Nevertheless, he continues to act as if there is some simple and direct cause.

The real concern is that he is pushing his anti-vaccine agenda. Kennedy was the founder and former chairman of the anti-vaccine advocacy group Children’s Health Defense and has a long



Robert F Kennedy Jr, who says that by September “we will know what has caused the autism epidemic, and we’ll be able to eliminate those exposures”. *HHS photo*

history of promoting the debunked idea that vaccines cause autism. For example, with the 2019 Samoa measles epidemic, in which 83 people died, he promoted the false notion that the measles vaccine was not safe.

Scores of high-quality scientific studies, meta-analyses and reviews have found no link between vaccines and autism. This abundant evidence effectively rules out vaccines as a cause of autism.

Regardless, Kennedy calls for yet more evidence. For people unaware of the existing

evidence, this can appear to be an entirely reasonable and fair request, but for professionals in the field there is concern it will take funding away from the research that really needs to be done. How many times do researchers have to show that vaccines do not cause autism?

The concern of the scientific community is further increased by Kennedy’s appointment of David Geier as a senior data analyst to review vaccine safety data. With only an undergraduate arts degree and no medical qualifications, Geier has a track record of endorsing anti-vaccine theories, advocating unapproved autism treatments, and has authored several methodologically flawed studies – now widely discredited – that attempted to link vaccines to autism.

He has been fined for practising medicine without a licence or medical degree, and treating autistic children with a non-approved testosterone-suppressing drug. Incredibly, this is the analyst Kennedy has selected to determine if vaccines are safe.

September will roll around quickly enough and what will Kennedy have to show? Perhaps nothing, perhaps a methodologically flawed study that purports to show a link between vaccines and autism? Time will tell, but if you leave a fox guarding the hen house you shouldn’t expect a good outcome.

■ Health scientist Dr Steve Humphries is a director at Hebe Botanicals in Ōtaki. He was previously a lecturer at Massey University and director of the Health Science Programme.



HEALTH SCIENCE

DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

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**to check.**



# PAKIHI/Business

## Line between sales-marketing almost gone

**T**here was a time when sales and marketing were two separate beasts. Marketing tossed leads over the fence. Sales picked up the phone and closed the deal.

But that world is gone. Today, the line between sales and marketing isn't just blurry – it's practically vanished.

Here's the wake-up call: 70 percent of a buyer's decision happens before they ever speak to you.

Let that land.

That means, before your phone rings, before

### YOUR BUSINESS



CHRIS WHELAN

an email lands in your inbox, before someone clicks "book a call" on your site, they've already done most of the heavy lifting.

They've Googled you. Stalked your website. Read your reviews.

Watched your videos. Scanned your social feeds.

Maybe they've even checked your team out on LinkedIn. All before saying a single word.

And if what they find doesn't scream trustworthy, capable, valuable, then they move on – without you ever knowing.

**You're in the sales game, like it or not**

This isn't just for big corporates or online

brands. This matters for lawyers in Levin, plumbers in Petone, architects in Auckland.

Your customers are researching you online.

They're comparing. Judging. Filtering. All quietly.

So, what's your online presence saying when you're not in the room?

- Is your website stuck in 2013?
- Are your Google reviews glowing – or ghost-town empty?
- Do you even have videos or blogs that show you know your stuff?
- Can someone feel what you stand for – your tone, your style, your value – just by clicking around?

If the answer is "hmmm, probably not," then you're losing sales you never even knew you had a shot at.

**Marketing is sales, sales start with marketing**

Stop thinking of marketing as the "soft" stuff. Marketing is now the frontline of your sales machine. It's your salesperson who works 24/7 without a salary or a sick day. But only if you've trained it well.

Here's the rub: Your next customer is not waiting for you to call them. They're already halfway down the decision path by the time they get in touch. Your job is to make sure everything they see along the way builds trust and screams "we're the one".

That's where small business owners often drop the ball.

You've got the skill, the service, the experience. But if your digital footprint is weak or outdated, your prospects never find out.



### The big shift – from cold call to content

In the old days, you led with a call or a pitch. Today, you lead with value.

Smart businesses are:

- posting regular blogs that answer real client questions
- filming 60-second videos showing how they solve problems
- collecting and displaying client reviews like trophies
- creating lead magnets, guides, and useful downloads
- sending emails that teach, not just sell.

And the smartest ones? They repurpose that content across platforms – website, social, email, even proposals. One piece of good content can work 10 different ways.

**'But I don't have time for that...'**

Of course you don't. You're running a business.

But here's what I know: the cost of not doing it is massive. Every time someone looks you up and finds nothing useful, they drift off to the business that does look sharp online.

The good news? You don't need a marketing

**Your customers are researching you online. They're comparing. Judging. Filtering. All quietly. So, what's your online presence saying when you're not in the room?**

agency or a TikTok team. You just need a plan, a few key tools, and a mindset shift:

**Every touchpoint with your business is part of the sales process.**

And if you treat it like that, you'll win more deals – before your competitors even realise they're in the race.

**What's your next step?**

If you're serious about growing your business, increasing your conversion rate, and getting found before your competition, then you need to tidy up your digital front door.

Start simple:

1. Google your business – what do you find?
2. Ask a friend to review your website – does it clearly explain who you help, how, and why you're the best?
3. Commit to one piece of value-driven content per week – a blog, a video, or a review request.

If that still feels too hard, or you're not sure where to begin, let's have a chat.

■ If you're looking to improve your business's performance, contact Chris at the Centre of Business Excellence (chris@wcbe.co.nz or 022 2332 669).



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BUSINESS PROFILE

This series of profiles on local businesses is supported by Land Matters and Pritchard Civil



Ben and Catherine Summers in their new Big Egg Shop at Ōtaki.

Photo Ōtaki Today

# Couple bring a Big Egg to a small town

Ben Summers and wife Catherine have been busy – as it always is with a venture setting up a new store.

The store is The Big Egg Shop, which opened on May 23, adding to the shopping experience in the Ōtaki highway precinct next to the Streetwise coffee cart. As a complete refit of an old building – which the couple have bought – it's a welcome addition.

The store is the second for the couple, who also operate The Big Egg on Roslyn Road just north of Levin. But it's bigger and offers a surprisingly large range of products.

While fresh eggs direct from the farm are still a mainstay, The Big Egg is like a boutique mini-mart. There are fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables, cooking ingredients, oils, dairy products, frozen meats, fresh fish, herba and even a huge range of spices.

Ben says they've made a big effort to source items locally.

"And we're only part way there," he says. "Give us a few months and we'll have a lot more that's grown and produced in the area."

"We know how tough it is to make a living as a small, local business, so we want to support local producers as much as possible."

He's keen to hear from any local suppliers.

Ben started out working at a Levin egg farm, then grabbed the opportunity to take over the farm in Roslyn Road. He and Catherine expanded the operation with other farms and became a supplier to supermarket chains.

Eventually, however, they felt the satisfaction "just wasn't there", so they concentrated their efforts on being more in control of their operation, rather than bowing to corporate needs.

"We're much happier now," Ben says. "There's a lot of work, but we're now dealing directly with our customers, so we can work out what they really want, and hopefully supply that."

"We're not quite out of the corporate jungle yet but well on our way and loving it"

Being local and knowing many artisan suppliers helps. Ben and Catherine have lived at

At right is the winning entry – drawn by Ōtaki Today – for a competition celebrating The Big Egg Shop's opening. Stu King receives a dozen eggs each week for the next year.



Ōtaki Gorge for the past 6½ years, and Ben has iwi connections to Ngāti Raukawa.

The Big Egg's suppliers include Tironui Sourdough run by Alice Blackburne out of the Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club kitchen, Kim Baker's Coral Tree Organics and James Michael's Gratitude kefir drinks – both operating on Riverbank Road – organic produce suppliers Crooked Veg, and Kāpiti Artisan Bread.

Although open only a couple of weeks when Ōtaki Today visited, Ben and Catherine are excited about the reaction of customers so far, and how the business is tracking.

"Of course we always hoped it would attract lots of people and we'd make plenty of sales, but it's exceeded our expectations," Ben says.

"What we're really pleased about is the feedback, which we actively encourage. It's great to have positive comments, but it's also good to know what people would like to see in the store."

"We make a note every time someone suggests a product we don't have, and if we can source it – especially locally – we'll get it in."

■ 226 Old Main Highway, Ōtaki. Open 7 days 7.30am-6.30pm. e: otaki@thebigegg.co.nz

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- Property Advisory



# HĪTŌRIA/History

## One Bible and two churches

**P**eople deliver items to the museum in a variety of ways. Some will drop them off during opening hours, others will arrange an appointment, some will send items through the mail, and others will put them in the mail slot in the front door.

Recently, a red Warehouse bag was found hanging on the front door handle. Inside it was a Bible, and no indication who had left it there.

The Bible was bedraggled; it turned out it had been

damaged by water. It was also very large, a consequence of the two Testaments and various notes requiring almost 1300 pages.

The Bible's title, *The Practical and Devotional Family Bible*, and other information on the title page indicated that it was one of several editions published during the period 1850-1870.

An inscription at the front showed this particular Bible had been presented to the Reverend Samuel Garlick and Mrs Garlick

DAVID LEDSON



ŌTAKI HERITAGE

"on the occasion of their marriage" in the Wesley (Methodist) Church in Wellington. Their marriage on March 31, 1880, was the first in the church, which had opened just over two weeks previously.

Methodism had started as an 18th-century breakaway from the Church of England, led by two Anglican priests, the brothers John and Charles Wesley. Their followers called themselves Wesleyans, and their highly disciplined and methodical approach to their religious beliefs earned them the mocking nickname of Methodists. This later became the accepted name for their faith.

The Methodists arrived in New Zealand in 1823, establishing a mission station at Kaero, near Whangaroa Harbour. It was abandoned in 1827 after being sacked by local Māori, and the missionaries relocated to Hokianga in 1828. Further missions were established during the 1830s and 1840s on the west coast of the North Island, and in 1839 a simple church was established in Wellington.

However, it was not until January 1887 that the first Methodist service was held in Ōtaki, by Rev Harper, while on a visit to the town. By April a Mr and Mrs McCulloch had moved to Ōtaki and regular services were being held in a private home.

In 1890, a section was bought on what is today Aotaki Street, and a wooden church to seat 80 people was built. It was opened on March 22, 1891, by Rev Harper, who opened and dedicated three Methodist churches in the area. There were modifications to the church in 1908, when it was extended and an organ installed, and in the late 1950s, when the organ was moved to the back of the church.

The 1950s, though, were to be the high point of the Methodist Church in Ōtaki. By the late 1960s, the congregation had decreased to such an extent that survival depended on joining with another church.

Eventually, on November 22, 1970, a service was held at the Anglican All Saints' Church in Te Rauparaha Street to mark "the entry into a fellowship of the Methodist congregation of Ōtaki with the Ōtaki Anglican church", creating the Anglican and Methodist Parish of Ōtaki.

Before being sold to the Rotary Club in 1974, the Methodist Church was briefly used by the Presbyterians. In 2006, after being sold to private buyers, it was moved to its current location on Aotaki Street where it is a residential dwelling.

As to the Wellington Methodist Church, 135 years after its opening, it still supports Wellington's Methodist community, and is considered to be one of Wellington's finest 19th century timber churches.



LEFT: The Bible from the mid-1800s that was delivered mysteriously to the Ōtaki Museum.

BELOW: The Ōtaki Methodist Church in Aotaki Street, 1891. It opened on March 22 of that year.

Photos Ōtaki Heritage



The Ōtaki Methodist Church building as it is today.

Photo Ōtaki Heritage



The Wellington Methodist Church.

Photo Charles Collins, WCC 2015



ŌTAKI SCHOOL 1992 ROOM 10

Compiled by Debbi Carson



**GOT OLD PHOTOS?**  
If you have old school photos – or any photos of old Ōtaki – please get in touch. We're building our archive so we can keep publishing snapshots of life when the town and district were younger. Email us, including names and other information if you can. Contact [debbi@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:debbi@idmedia.co.nz) with additions or corrections to captions.

**ŌTAKI SCHOOL 1992:** these cuties would have been born in the mid-late 1980s. The first person to let us know their names and their teachers wins a \$30 New World voucher! Email [debbi@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:debbi@idmedia.co.nz)

**MĀKERETI PAPA KURA**, the first Māori woman to enrol at the University of Oxford, is to be posthumously awarded a Master of Philosophy in Anthropology more than 100 years after beginning her studies.

Born in New Zealand in 1873 to an English father and Māori mother, Papakura embarked on groundbreaking research in anthropology in 1922, offering unique insights into Māori customs from a female indigenous perspective.

Her academic journey was cut short when she died suddenly in 1930, just weeks before she was due to present her thesis.

Her work was later published as *The Old-Time Māori*, becoming the first study of Māori life authored by a Māori scholar and earning recognition from the New Zealand Royal Society.

The posthumous degree, which will be awarded by Oxford vice chancellor Professor Irene Tracey at a ceremony in the Sheldonian Theatre later this year, represents a significant recognition of her pioneering scholarship.

Professor Clare Harris described Papakura as "an inspiring figure" to many in New Zealand and to scholars worldwide.

June Northcroft Grant, speaking on behalf of Papakura's family and the Tūhourangi-Ngāti Wāhiao iwi, called her story "a testament to the lasting power of education, culture, and the determination of one woman to ensure that Māori stories would not be forgotten".



**THIS MONTH 100 YEARS AGO:**  
**Levin Daily Chronicle 9 June 1925**  
**TRAIN SERVICES ŌTAKI TO WELLINGTON**

Mr W H Field, MP has received the following letter:

"Dear Sir, In further reply to your letter of the 7th February last, with reference to the running of a train from Ōtaki to reach Wellington before 9am daily; I have to inform you that enquiries have been made with a view to ascertaining the probable volume of traffic that would be offering from Paraparaumu, Waikanae, Te Horo and Ōtaki for a train to connect with the 7am train from Paekākāriki for Wellington daily, and it is found that the number of regular travellers could be too small to warrant the Department incurring the expense that would be involved in providing the trains. It has, however, been noted that in the summer a number of city residents travel on (Saturdays to Paraparaumu and Waikanae and perhaps to Ōtaki. The majority return on Sunday, but a few remain for the early train on Monday. It has been definitely decided to test the possibilities of the week-end' traffic to and from stations between Paekākāriki and Ōtaki during next summer, by the provision

of a train connecting at Paekakariki with one of the midday trains from Wellington on Saturday and a similar service from Ōtaki on Monday morning to connect with one of the morning trains from Paekākāriki to Wellington. The period of the trial will of course largely depend on the amount of business that results."

Yours faithfully, (Signed) J. G. COATES.

This letter contains news which will be very welcome to the residents on the Manawatu line from Paekākāriki to Ōtaki, and to those who desire to spend their weekends in that favoured locality. Mr. Field has for years past been endeavouring to obtain a daily train from Ōtaki reaching Thorndon before 9am. Failing a daily service, he has asked the Department to provide a midday train on Saturday to Ōtaki, and a return train to the city early on Monday morning. This latter proposal it has now been agreed to give a trial to for the summer months. It is likely to be taken full advantage of, and to be the precursor of a daily, and fast, all the year round train from Ōtaki, thus enabling people to live permanently in the district served by it. Mr. Field is also asking for various improvements in the suburban service between Thorndon and Paekākāriki.

# PM William Massey's funeral

**FROM THE ARCHIVES:**

Last month was the 100th anniversary of the death of William Ferguson Massey, who served as New Zealand Prime Minister from 1912-1925 and led the country during the First World War.

Experienced by William F Massey". The footage, captured in Wellington on May 14, 1925, is available to watch in the online collection. Visit [www.ngataonga.org.nz](http://www.ngataonga.org.nz) and search for the reference number F3307.

Recently Ngā Taonga, the audiovisual archive of Aotearoa New Zealand, digitally preserved footage of his state funeral for an exhibition at Parliament, "1856-1925 as

The funeral procession of William Massey, filmed from the then De Luxe Theatre in Wellington (1925). Photo Ngā Taonga, collection ref. F3307. Photo Archives New Zealand:





# TAMARIKI FUN



## New apple bold and fizzy

The Fizz is a new apple developed by a company in Havelock North. With pinky-red flesh and a berry-like taste the FIZZ apple has been sent in small batches to important markets around the world. The apples were created as part of a breeding programme run by Plant and Food Research. FIZZ is the first apple of its kind to be developed in New Zealand.

Some trees have already been planted to grow more FIZZ apples for future supermarket sales. The new apple joins other popular fruits developed by Prevar, such as Rockit, Joli, Dazzle, and Sassy apples, as well as PIQA pears. Snazzy Fruit has been given exclusive rights to grow and sell the FIZZ apple. That means only they can produce and sell this colourful new fruit.

Snazzy's managing director, Josh Parlane, says Fizz trees are being grown in Otago, Nelson and Hawke's Bay and the plan is to roll out many more hectares with commercial growers on board.

## WORD MAKER

**T O U R I S T**



Can you make 81 words from TOURIST?  
Answers below.

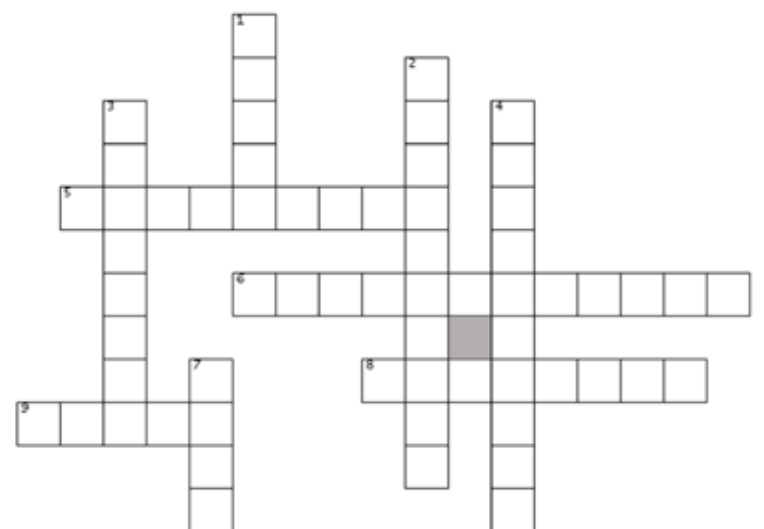
## 14 year old human calculator

Fourteen-year-old Aaryan Shukla, from Maharashtra, India, recently took down no less than six mental math world records in a single day – proving he's earned his nickname, "the Human Calculator." His times were certified by Guinness World Records. He achieved this by demonstrating exceptional speed and accuracy in calculations like adding large numbers, dividing multi-digit numbers, and multiplying five and eight-digit numbers, all while calculating mentally. Shulka set these new records at an event hosted by Guinness in Dubai. Aaryan attributes his success to daily practice, spending five to six hours a day working on his mental math skills. Aaryan's father said he is a one-in-a-billion person!



## CADE'S MATARIKI CRISS-CROSS PUZZLE

Use the clues to fill in the words. Words can go across or down. Letters are shared when the words intersect.



### ACROSS

- The star connected to the plants that grow underground.
- The star connected to the weather,
- The star for well-being.
- The star connected to fresh water.

### DOWN

- The star connected to salt water.
- The star that connects us to our ancestors,
- The star connected to the wind.
- The star connected to the plants that don't grow underground.

## NZ's first space tourist

CEO of Kea Aerospace, Mark Rocket, has made history by crossing the Kármán line – the edge of space – about 100 kilometres above Earth. This journey made him New Zealand's first space tourist. The flight took off from Texas on Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket at 1:39 am NZ time and landed safely back on earth around 1:50 am. The short spaceflight lasted just over 10 minutes. Rocket described the launch as "wonderfully intense," as the spacecraft sped up to more than 3,400 kilometres per hour within minutes. During the flight, they experienced three minutes of weightlessness. Through the large windows, they saw the dark sky of space above and the bright blue Earth below. Rocket even floated out of his seat and did backflips. He said the sight of Earth's curved horizon was amazing, stretching over 1,000 kilometres in every direction. On the way back, passengers felt strong pressure – up to five times their body weight – as they re-entered Earth's atmosphere.



### 1. Riddle:

You're running a race and at the very end, you pass the person in 2nd place. What place did you finish the race in?

2. Riddle: I have a tail and a head, but no body. What am I?

3. Riddle: What two things can you never eat for breakfast?

4. Riddle: I am so simple that I can only point, yet I guide people all over the world.

5. Riddle: What has 13 hearts, but no other organs?

6. Riddle: I go up and down, but never move. What am I?

7. Riddle: What can you put between 7 and 8, to make the result greater than 7, but less than 8?

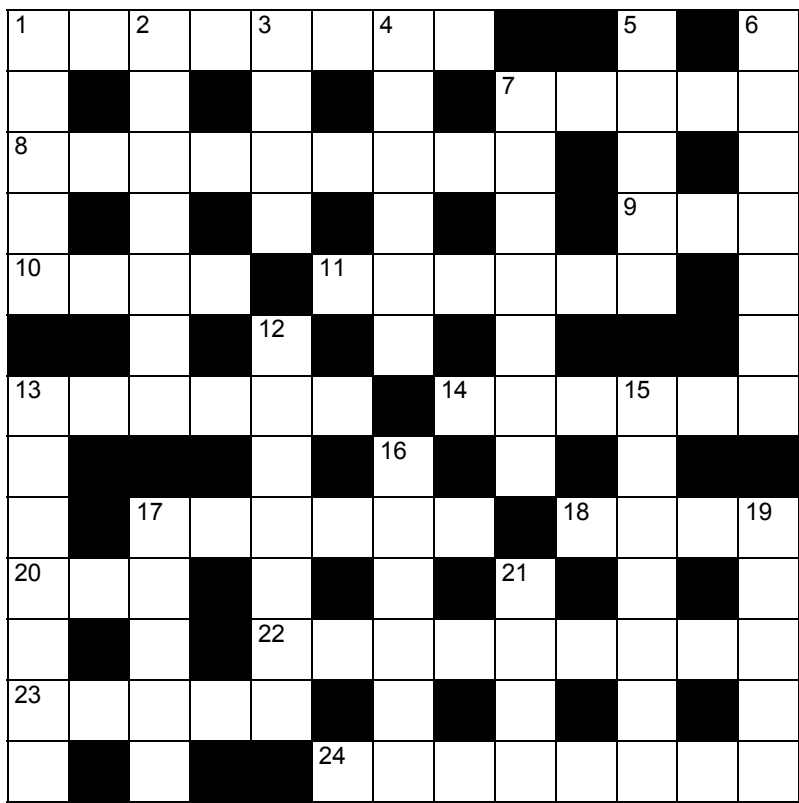
8. Riddle: You'll find me in Mercury, Earth, Mars and Jupiter, but not in Venus or Neptune. What am I?

Answers: 1. You finished in 2nd place. 2. A coin. 3. Lunch and dinner. 4. Compass. 5. A deck of cards. 6. A staircase. 7. A decimal point. Your result would be 7.8, which is between 7 and 8. 8. The letter R.

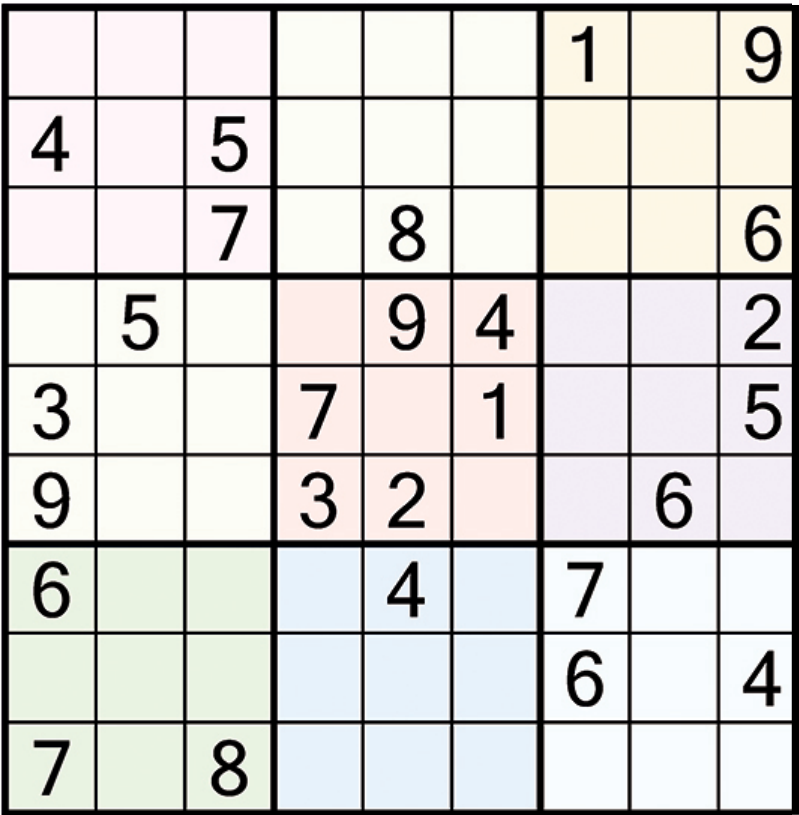
**TOURIST: WORD MAKER ANSWERS**  
from above: 6-letter words: 1. trouts  
2. suitor 3. outsit 4. tutors. 5-letter  
words: 5. riots 6. routs 7. torus  
8. tours 9. torts 10. torsi 11. toits  
12. tiros 13. sturt 14. stour 15. stout  
16. strut 17. rotis 18. trout 19. trots  
20. trust 21. roust 22. trois 23. trios  
24. tutor 25. touts. 4-letter words:  
26. tuis 27. suit 28. tuts 29. tiro  
30. oust 31. tout 32. toit 33. tors  
34. trot 35. tort 36. tost 37. tots  
38. tour 39. trio 40. tori 41. ors  
42. ours 43. riot 44. roti 45. rots  
46. outs 47. rout 48. rust 49. ruts  
50. sour 51. sori 52. stir 53. sort.  
3-letter words: 54. rot 55. its 56. uts  
57. out 58. sri 59. our 60. tut 61. ort  
62. tui 63. tor 64. sou 65. tis 66. sit  
67. sir 68. ors 69. rut 70. tot 71. sot.  
2-letter words 72. ut 73. it 74. us  
75. os 76. is 77. ti 78. to 79. si 80. so  
81. or.



THE CROSSWORD #1917A (answers below right)



**SUDOKU PUZZLES** [thepuzzlecompany.co.nz](http://thepuzzlecompany.co.nz)  
EASY #61E Use logic and process of elimination to fill in the blank cells using the numbers 1 through 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Puzzle solution page 27.



- ACROSS
1. Odd (8)

7. Command (5)

8. The \_\_\_\_\_, NZ sea shanty that became popular in 2020 (9)

9. Tertiary institution (abbr) (3)

10. Astrolabe \_\_\_\_, where the ship Rena ran aground near Tauranga (4)

11. Dairy brand owned by Fonterra (6)

13. Man (inf) (6)

14. North Island national park (6)

17. Vote (6)

18. Tidings (4)

20. Female deer (3)

22. Luxury accommodation near Taupō (4,5)
23. Fortunate (5)

24. Blameless (8)
- DOWN
1. Electricity (5)

2. Common name for NZ secondary school (7)

3. Fibbed (4)

4. Nut (6)

5. Aroma (5)

6. Cargo (7)

7. Very busy (2,3,2)

12. Well (7)

13. Attraction in Rotorua & Queenstown (7)

15. Behind schedule (7)

16. Research library at Otago University (6)

17. Where rugby reserves sit (5)

19. Sugary (5)

21. Too (4)



**GENERAL QUIZ**  
Answers on page 23.

1. Who, in 1903, was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize?

2. What year did the Berlin Wall fall?

3. What element does the chemical symbol Au stand for?

4. What is the sign directly opposite Scorpio in the zodiac?

5. Who wrote the classic American novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*?

6. The shooting of whom, in 1914, started the First World War?

7. What is the highest-grossing Broadway show of all time?

8. What is the more popular name for the portrait officially titled *La Gioconda*, painted in Florence in 1503?

9. What was the first book published by Jane Austen?

10. Which two countries have the longest shared international border?

- CROSSWORD #1917A**
- ACROSS:** 1. Peculiar, 7. Order, 8. Wellerman, 9. Uni, 10. Reef, 11. Anchor, 13. Geezer, 14. Egmont, 17. Ballot, 18. News, 20. Doe, 22. Huka Lodge, 23. Lucky, 24. Innocent.
- DOWN:** 1. Power, 2. College, 3. Lied, 4. Almond, 5. Odour, 6. Freight, 7. On the go, 12. Healthy, 13. Gondola, 15. Overdue, 16. Hocken, 17. Bench, 19. Sweet, 21. Also.



**Ōtaki River entrance tides**  
**June 11-July 11**  
<https://www.metservice.com/marine/regions/kapiti-wellington/tides/locations/otaki-river-entrance>  
Please note: The actual timing of high and low tide might differ from that provided here. Times are extrapolated from the nearest primary port for this location, so please take care.

	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
WED 11 JUN -	03:44	09:50	16:02	22:14	
THU 12 JUN -	04:23	10:30	16:40	22:51	
FRI 13 JUN -	05:02	11:10	17:18	23:28	
SAT 14 JUN -	05:42	11:52	17:57		
SUN 15 JUN	00:08	06:25	12:35	18:39	
MON 16 JUN	00:51	07:11	13:21	19:23	
TUE 17 JUN	01:38	07:59	14:10	20:13	
WED 18 JUN	02:30	08:51	15:03	21:07	
THU 19 JUN	03:26	09:46	16:01	22:08	
FRI 20 JUN	04:25	10:44	17:03	23:13	
SAT 21 JUN	05:26	11:45	18:07		
SUN 22 JUN -	00:18	06:27	12:48	19:11	
MON 23 JUN -	01:21	07:28	13:49	20:11	
TUE 24 JUN -	02:21	08:28	14:46	21:07	
WED 25 JUN -	03:16	09:25	15:40	21:59	
THU 26 JUN -	04:09	10:20	16:31	22:48	
FRI 27 JUN -	05:00	11:12	17:18	23:35	
SAT 28 JUN -	05:48	12:00	18:04		
SUN 29 JUN	00:21	06:36	12:47	18:49	
MON 30 JUN	01:06	07:22	13:32	19:33	
TUE 1 JUL	01:51	08:07	14:16	20:18	
WED 2 JUL	02:38	08:53	15:03	21:07	
THU 3 JUL	03:26	09:41	15:53	22:01	
FRI 04 JUL	04:18	10:33	16:49	23:01	
SAT 5 JUL	05:13	11:29	17:50		
SUN 6 JUL -	00:04	06:10	12:28	18:51	
MON 7 JUL -	01:03	07:06	13:25	19:47	
TUE 8 JUL -	01:56	07:59	14:16	20:35	
WED 9 JUL -	02:43	08:48	15:01	21:17	
THU 10 JUL -	03:25	09:33	15:43	21:56	
FRI 11 JUL -	04:06	10:15	16:22	22:34	

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**QUIZ ANSWERS** 1. Marie Curie. 2. 1989. 3. Gold. 4. Taurus. 5. Zora Neale Hurston. 6. Archduke Franz Ferdinand 7. The Lion King. 8. The Mona Lisa. 9. Sense and Sensibility. 10. Canada and the U.S.

**SUDOKU SOLUTION #61 EASY**

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



# Stellar season for golfers

Ōtaki Golf Club has completed the Wellington region Interclub competition with wins in three divisions.

The wins were from three of the six 18-hole men's teams competing.

The senior men won the Waikanae Cup, winning by 7 points. The division 4 team won by 19 points and division 11 won their grade comfortably. Division 6 were second, only 1 point behind the winner and Division 8 finished a creditable 4th.

The 9-hole mid-week golfers also had great success. The men won their competition by a point. The women are leading their competition with three rounds to play.

"These results are outstanding and certainly the best for the club this century," says club president Graeme Baumgart. "The awesome condition of the golf course, the friendly environment and the success of our players are encouraging more young people onto the course, as well as attracting many members from other clubs."

Graeme praised all the interclub players and administrators who contributed to the successful season.

"The club is certainly doing well with growing membership – close to 700 – so much so that it's important for members and green fee players to book ahead for their time slots."

Club championships have just started with a record number of participants, reflecting the growth in numbers as well as the quality of the players.

Young player Ned Butler was on Sunday (June 8) presented with his award for the Wellington Eagles Young Golfer of the Year.

"This prestigious award has been won by Otaki players for the last three years, which reflects well on our junior coaching programme," Graeme says.

Senior men's team captain Jayden Matthews the team had a season to remember.

"Competing in a championship division for the first time in many years, nerves were quickly moved to the side with our first-up 12-3 victory over the previous year's champions," he said. "It set the scene for the rest of the season."

The team went undefeated through the regular season, averaging 10 points a round – enough to comfortably secure the Waikanae Cup for the first time in 15 years.

"We then went on to defeat Royal Wellington in the semi-final, and narrowly went down to Boulcott farm in the final 7-8."

He said the commitment and camaraderie throughout the season was

second to none and a testament to not only the progression of the team but also the club in competitive golf.

"The feedback I received from other team captains, players and managers regarding how the team presented themselves, their attitudes, the team cohesion, and the overall way they represented their club did not go unnoticed and is something we should all be truly proud of."

Player of the year Aaron Moy finished the season undefeated. Aaron has been a solid figure in the men's team for many years.

He is joined by two new players to the club, Brad Carter and Jay Maaka, who have settled into the club spirit effortlessly.

"With a bunch of young golfers spread over interclub teams it's exciting to see what the future holds for our little club, that has in true Ōtaki style, punched well above its weight," Jayden says.

Senior men's captain Jayden Matthews (with cup) and senior player of the year Aaron Moy.

Photo supplied



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