

ŌTAKI TODAY

otakitoday.com

MEI/MAY 2025

Ngā kōrero o Ōtaki



Chest full of medals

p4



Walk in another's shoes

p13



Aiming for Hi Mate success

p19



Te Horo Hall Society chair Bryan Hall stands at the block of land the society wants as a car park.

Photo Ōtaki Today

Hall wants land for car park

By Ian Carson

Thirty-three years ago, the council bought a block of land at 52 School Road, Te Horo.

It was bought with the intention of creating a car park for the Te Horo Community Hall next door. Now the hall has been saved from the wrecking ball with phase one of a big renovation, the hall committee wants the block of land to be used for its intended purpose.

But the land is not surplus to council requirements, and the council says it might have other uses for it in the future.

The hall is owned by an incorporated society. The chair, Bryan Hall, says there's got to be

a way the land can be converted to a much-needed car park.

"Every time there's an event at the hall, cars are parked along the berm on School Road," Bryan says. "It makes the road through quite narrow. It's dangerous."

He says there are two possible options, including the council gifting the land to the hall society, or leasing it to them for a peppercorn rental.

The first option would leave the society liable for considerable costs.

The block of land, now a paddock grazed by local farmers to keep the grass down, would need work to make it fit for purpose. The cost of that work is a sticking point, one that Bryan

acknowledges would be out of reach of the hall society, especially with fundraising about to begin for cladding on the hall. A big fundraising campaign last year got the hall earthquake-strengthened.

"It won't be just a matter of clearing it and putting some gravel down," Bryan says. "It needs resource consents, drainage, a proper basecourse and so on. It would be a big job."

He prefers the lease option, which he says would allow the council to manage how it is used. But he believes the council should pay for the work required.

"Te Horo doesn't have much in the way of council facilities. Even the hall is owned and funded by the community.

"So surely it's not unreasonable to ask for a community car park."

Bryan says he's had recent meetings with council officers and hopes there can be a resolution soon.

The issue was brought to a head when the Waikanae Community Board requested information from the council about the land.

After officers reported to the board meeting on April 29, the board recommended that the council "investigate lease/gifting options with the Te Horo Community Hall Society Inc, for 52 School Road, Te Horo, to enable the society to undertake, at their cost, the necessary work to transform the land into a car park and use for other community purposes".

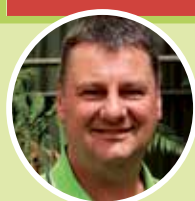
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WHAT'S ON

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.

KAPITI CHORALE Kāpiti Chorale Presents: European Masters, 3pm, Saturday, May 24, St Paul's Church, Paraparaumu. A concert including music by Fauré, Haydn, Gounod, Franck, Poulenc, and Mozart, and concluding with a special performance of *Messe de la Délivrance* by Théodore Dubois. See page 9.

ENDRES CONCERT Acclaimed German pianist Michael Endres will return to give a Mulled Wine Concert in Paekakariki's St Peter's Hall at 2.30pm on Sunday, May 25. International critics have described Endres as "one of the most interesting pianists recording today". See page 9.

QUIZ NIGHT for Ōtaki Rotunda Restoration. 7pm, May 28 at the RSA.

ŌTAKI MARKET 58 Main Highway, Ōtaki. KIDS MARKET 10am-2pm Sunday, April 27.

COMMUNITY BOARDS The Ōtaki Community Board meets next at 7pm, Tuesday, June 10, in the Gertrude Atmore Lounge (attached to the Memorial Hall). The Waikanae Community Board meets next on 6.30pm (note new time) on Tuesday, June 10, 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

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-noon, Rotary Lounge, Aotaki St. All welcome. Call 021 050 1904 for details.

TOI MAHARA, Mahara Place, Waikanae. The Kāpiti Coast's district gallery has reopened bigger and better than ever. See toimahara.nz

COMMUNITY NETWORKING: An opportunity for any agency providing a service to the people of Ōtaki to find out what each other is doing. First Tuesday of every month, 9.30am for an hour at the Gertrude Atmore Supper Room (by the library).

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

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 debbi@idmedia.co.nz



No ships, no trucks – the port of Seattle lies idle as tarrifs on imported goods stifle trade to the United States. Photo supplied

Tariffs put NZ on shaky ground

A balancing act on the high wire of a political trapeze looms for Finance Minister Nicola Willis as she prepares her 2025 budget against a backdrop of gloomy predictions for the course of global trade.

The photograph above of the port at Seattle on the west coast of the US shows in stark terms the impact that President Donald Trump's tariff declarations are having on international flows of tradeable products. Normally the port is full of ships loading and unloading and the roads regularly crammed with trucks servicing the facility.

It provides a glimpse of marketplace reality in response to the machinations of government, and the economic power that resides in the White House. For Willis, the lesson is clear – no amount of hand wringing or pandering to sectional interests can lessen the reality that New Zealand stands economically on a shaky base.

A prolonged downturn in international trade, an earthquake akin to the recent Kaikoura shakes or a business failure on the scale of the Bank of New Zealand debacle under the Bolger government would tip the scales toward a major fiscal crisis.

Governments in such circumstances have three choices – ignore the situation and proceed with business as usual; address the position with vigorous steps aimed at an early resolution of the factors provoking the crisis; or take halfway steps toward a resolution and hope other factors will arise that ease the situation. Only the first of these deserves condemnation.

Grant Robertson and the Ardern-Hipkins administration fit into the first category for post-Covid spending that set the stage for today's bleak economic outlook. The steps taken by Roger Douglas in 1985 to right an ailing

economy fit into the second category. Nicola Willis and the coalition government are fitting into the third category, while pressing for new developments that might allow them to be more Santa Claus than Scrooge.

The major virtue of the Douglas economic prescription was a virtually overnight big king-hit that rebalanced the Kiwi economy in a manner that set the stage for consistent economic growth through to the end of the century. Speed of execution was achieved with lobby groups essentially shut out from input. He reasoned that pre-consultation would have led to a watering down of measures essential for stability and a new path toward economic growth.

The country was stunned but accepting. Economists and suffering families argued that a slower pace of implementation could better have eased them through the changes he made, especially in the farm sector that grappled with the abolition of livestock subsidies. The criticism was valid, but Douglas could, and does, argue back that his measures reformed the economy for the better.

Willis does not have the internal power within the coalition that Douglas wielded in the early days of the Lange government. She has to balance National's traditional steady-as-she-goes approach with Act's more Douglas-like leanings and NZ First's liking for occasional doses of Labour-light wealth distribution.

But when you don't "do a Douglas" of instant implementation, the political problem becomes one of acceptance by the voting public that a moderate re-setting of financial policies toward greater prudence in expenditure is little more than evidence of an unnecessary Scrooge-like approach.

New Zealand, with 5.5 million people, has a net core debt of about \$190 billion. Debt

servicing alone is costing the country more than \$9 billion a year. Before the Covid years the debt level was about 20 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). It's now about 43 percent.

Other countries can and do have higher debt as a percentage of their GDP. But very few are as heavily dependent on international trade in farm products as New Zealand. When this is coupled to the country's vulnerability to natural hazard shocks – earthquakes, floods, and big winds – a degree of nervousness in the Beehive is understandable.

The high wire is taut. To date Willis has signalled that of the about \$190 billion the government is likely to spend in the coming 12 months only \$1.3 billion will be new money. There will be more money for health, education, defence, and law and order (police and justice). Ministries and departments in other sectors will have to plead exceptional causes to achieve higher sums.

Defence, with a strong input from Defence Minister Judith Collins and NZ First leader Winston Peters, seems to have had the right formula for escaping the purse tightening. The expenditure can be cited as team playing aligned to Western security interests and perhaps help our trading interests.

Stability of the wire is, however, subject to observance outside Parliament that the Willis recipe for balance is acceptable. The recent strike of medical professionals and threatened industrial action by other health occupational areas and teaching organisations all raise the prospect of financial blowout in these key areas of government spending.

The issue is not whether the case for more money is reasonable but rather the overall impact on the state's ability to meet demands on the public purse without incurring further indebtedness.

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

POLITICS

BRUCE KOHN

CARTOON: Jared is taking a break – his cartoons will be back next issue.

ŌTAKI TODAY Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki

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Present for the signing of the historic statement at Te Wānanga o Raukawa on May 5 were, from left, Tihema Baker, Denise Hapeta, Doris Lake, Ngāhorihori Wehipeihana, Lois McNaught, Manurere Devonshire, Professor Meihana Durie, John Ryan, Steve Walker, John Whittal.

Photo supplied

Deal puts teaching in iwi hands

Te Wānanga o Raukawa has signed a landmark agreement with the Office of the Auditor General reaffirming its status as a non-crown entity and placing its governance and accountability firmly in the hands of its founding iwi.

The iwi, known as the ART Confederation, are Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai, Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, and Ngāti Toa Rangatira. The joint statement is a commitment from the OAG – independent from the crown – to work in partnership on accountability and reporting requirements.

Signed on May 5, the statement represents far more than an administrative change, says Wānanga tumuaki Meihana Durie.

“It’s a powerful step toward Māori educational sovereignty,” he says. “For Māori communities across Aotearoa, this change signals a future where mātauranga Māori can be nurtured, protected and developed

by Māori, for Māori, in a way that upholds tikanga and the aspirations of whānau, hapū and iwi.”

He says the change builds on a decades-long struggle for recognition, which began with the initial claim lodged in 1998 by all three wānanga followed by Te Wānanga o Raukawa WAI 2698 claim in 2017. These claims challenged crown practices that limited Māori control over wānanga development and mātauranga.

The resulting legislative change, passed in 2023 and taking affect from January 1, 2024, has now created a pathway for wānanga such as Te Wānanga o Raukawa to operate with

genuine tino rangatiratanga.

Under the new framework, Te Wānanga o Raukawa will still work with the crown and auditor-general around funding and quality assurance. However, its core accountability now rests with the ART Confederation, reflecting an equal partnership under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

“For Māori, this milestone reaffirms the right to determine how mātauranga is taught, preserved, and passed on,” Meihana says. “It is a bold affirmation that Māori knowledge systems have value, integrity, and a rightful place in shaping the future of education in Aotearoa.”

BRIEFS

More works ahead

Waka Kotahi says intersection upgrades at Sue Avenue and Riverbank Road will be finished in July, while works between Waerenga Road and the Mill Road roundabout are scheduled to take another 14 months. Installation of new wastewater pipes along Aotaki Street and Mill Road are set for completion in late 2025. The Mill Road/old SH1 roundabout will be rebuilt with new wastewater pipes installed. This work will begin in July and is expected to take three months.

Ōtaki rates up 9.4pc

Kāpiti Coast District Council’s Annual Plan 2026-26 will lift rates by an average of 9.4 percent in Ōtaki (6.9 percent district-wide). In Ōtaki, where the average capital value of a property is \$560,000 and land value \$300,000, ratepayers will pay on average \$342.95 more a year (\$6.59 a week). It will take the average rates to \$4000 a year.

Feedback on flooding sought

The council is seeking feedback on its draft flood maps and models, many of which will be in and around Ōtaki. The council wants to ensure the maps and models reflect what residents actually see and experience. It is holding drop-in sessions – including 10am-midday at Ōtaki Memorial Hall Supper Room on Saturday, May 17; and 10am-midday on Saturday May 24 at Waikanae Community Centre, 28 Utauta St. See haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/FloodMaps

Twenty-one call-outs

There were 21 call-outs for the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade in April. Seven were for rubbish, grass or scrub fires; four each for car crashes and “special services”; three medical emergencies; two private fire alarms; and one property fire.

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BULSARA T/A TALL POPPY LICENSED UNDER REA 2008

By Ian Carson

Photo Michael Moore



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Beach burglars snatch trailer, tools

Brazen burglars have stolen a trailer and valuable tools from the home of Waikanae Community Board chair Michael Moore.

Michael noticed the distinctive trailer was gone early on the morning of May 1. “The first thing I saw was the remains of a special bolt I had installed on the trailer towbar connection,” he says. “It was lying on the driveway and when I looked around the trailer was gone from its usual place.” The key-operated bolt was meant to make it difficult for anyone to hook the trailer onto a towbar. “It seems they just cut through it,” Michael says. He immediately notified police. Michael believes the thieves likely left the area by driving along the Te Horo beach to Peka Peka.

“That would have avoided the CCTV cameras at Te Horo Beach,” he says. The trailer had been secured not only with the trailer coupling lock bolt, but also a solid wheel lock. It contained work gear that Michael uses for his landscaping business, including tools such as rakes and spades, a large 10m-long folding ladder, a commercial backpack weed sprayer, and a near-new blue Hyundai lawn mower. “It was all the sort of stuff you need to run a business – gone in a matter of minutes,” Michael says. “Including the trailer, it was probably all worth about \$4000.” The trailer was home built and distinctive with an unusually long drawbar, and gate openings at both the front and rear. The cage was made with metal strips and painted galvanized gray, the floor a rusty red. It had a red coupling handle and new jockey wheel.



Michael Moore holding the remains of a special trailer bolt left behind by burglars, and (inset) his distinctive trailer.

Photo Ōtaki Today

The unique trailer design had Michael looking online to see if it was going to be offered for sale. Within hours he says he saw it for sale on a popular Kāpiti buy/sell Facebook page. “I thought, wow, that’s mine. There it was, with all its distinctive features. For only \$500. A price like that has got to be suspicious.” He recognised the Waikanae seller as someone who was “known to the police”, and the address also being well known. He advised the police of the listing, but he

says they did nothing to verify whether the trailer for sale was his. The listing was taken down the same day, marked as “sold”. As of Monday (May 12), Michael said police had “not visited my place, not questioned neighbours, not questioned the person who posted the trailer for sale, and haven’t entered his property to look. It’s frustrating.” Ōtaki police chief sergeant Phil Grimstone says his team is investigating the incident. “We have a line of enquiry,” he says.

Numbers at local police station only 4

Ōtaki police have only four full-time frontline staff.

The number allocated to Ōtaki – part of the Central Police District – is seven, meaning it is operating at just over half of what it should be. Ōtaki police chief Phil Grimstone says the police are actively recruiting to fill the vacancies, but it’s difficult to attract staff to small towns such as Ōtaki, Levin and Foxton. “We’re not alone,” Phil says. “The Horowhenua area [including Ōtaki] is 16 short of the 46 frontline staff it should have.” That’s down 35 percent on its targeted full complement. Phil says there are several factors making it difficult to attract staff. They include the perceived lack of excitement and opportunities in rural towns, stalled pay negotiations, and the fact that recruits could determine where they wanted to go – rather than being sent where they were needed. The larger centres are getting most recruits. With police numbers already stretched, it might also be seen as unattractive for a new officer to join an already overworked team.

A breath of fresh air
in Ōtaki Real Estate.



Waikawa gets more protection

Waikawa Beach got 600 more plants on Saturday (May 10) as efforts to push back the effects of erosion continue.

A total of 600 plants – mostly spinifex but also pingau – were planted in the dunes at the beach by about 50 volunteers, some of whom had come from Foxton to help out.

The plants were supplied by Horowhenua District Council from stock raised at Coastland Nursery in Opotiki. While the council would prefer to use plants raised in Horowhenua, the reality is that Ōpotiki currently has the best for

the harsh beach conditions.

“We’d like to be able to use locally grown plants, and there’s some really good work going on at the Foxton Wildlife nurseries, but these plants from Ōpotiki work best at the moment in these conditions,” says council parks and reserves officer Craig Kidd.

The work on Saturday was to extend dune planting by the community that has been happening since about 2016.

Usually twice a year, the Waikawa Beach Environment Group organises the planting day – along with the Horowhenua council.

Originally, when there was little ground cover

over the dunes, about 2000 plants were put in during a planting. With those plants now well established, efforts are now concentrated on removing invasive weeds and extending the zone, thereby protecting the beach from erosion.

BELOW: Some of the volunteer planters at Waikawa Beach on May 10. From left, Jerry Holmes, Rachel Gannaway, Bob Hoskins, Elke Chanteleau, Debra Betts (chair of the Waikawa Beach Environment Group), Anita Nalder, and Horowhenua District Council parks and reserves officer Craig Kidd. Kneeling, Michele Walls and Sarany Pan.

Photo Ōtaki Today



Mike Styles at his investiture with Governor-General Dame Cindy Karo. *Photo supplied*

Investiture for Mike Styles

Mike Styles, who grew up in Te Horo and was a foundation pupil of Ōtaki College in 1959, was invested with his MNZM at Government House on May 3.

He received the MNZM for services to people with dyslexia and education. He now lives in Paraparaumu.

Mike has delivered workshops, seminars and speaking engagements to aid dyslexia education and support. He led a research project to investigate how dyslexia affects tertiary learners.

He also led a team to implement the Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark, with many tertiary education organisations adopting the standards.

Mike has researched the rate of dyslexia in NEETs (Young people Not in Education, Employment or Training) and prison inmates. He developed a process to help apprentices with dyslexia/neurodiversity secure their registration.

He co-established the Dyslexia/Neurodiversity Community of Practice, a forum of educators, and self-published a book on dyslexia. Mike sits on the board of trustees of Kāpiti Youth Support.



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Volunteering is the heartbeat of Ōtaki.

From sports clubs to support groups, it's the selfless effort of everyday people that keeps our community strong. Few embody this spirit more than our Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade – a vital part of the community and always ready when the call comes.

When the siren goes up – whether it's 2pm or 2am – our firefighters drop everything. Family dinners, work meetings, and precious sleep is put on hold. There's no pause button. We leave homes, jobs and warm beds behind to respond, knowing someone in our community needs us.

On May 24 (just days away now), six of our brigade members – Dave McHattie, Shane Read, Gavin LaFrentz, Kieran Bloxham, Miriam Bloxham, and myself – will push ourselves in a different way: the 2025 Firefighter Sky Tower Stair Challenge. That's 51 floors, 1103 stairs, and 28kg of gear, all uphill, inside the Southern Hemisphere's tallest building. This is Shane and Miriam's first time taking on this challenge.

It's hot, sweaty and physically brutal. Your legs burn and breathing is hard. But we're not just doing this for the physical challenge, we're doing it to support Leukaemia & Blood Cancer NZ – a cause close to many of us.

Every day, eight Kiwis, adults and children, are diagnosed with a blood cancer like leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma. That's eight families facing fear, uncertainty and the long road of treatment. Many of us in the brigade have personal connections to this cause; we all know someone who has been affected by cancer.

The Firefighter Sky Tower Stair Challenge is more than a test of endurance; it's a symbol of our commitment to those battling blood cancers.

By participating, we aim to raise funds and awareness for Leukaemia & Blood Cancer NZ, supporting their vital work in patient care, research and advocacy. This year, the squad has set a fundraising goal of \$6000+.

Please consider donating to support our team and this important cause by scanning the QR code.

■ Simon is deputy chair of the Ōtaki Community Board



LETTERS

Well-being from tip shop

I have been an Otaihanga tip shop customer since it opened and have been shocked it is being replaced by Zero Waste, which will possibly send books, clothing and even bric a brac to the tip. The fallout is interesting – those who do not indulge in tip shopping would not realise the service this shop does for the well-being to a whole sub culture. I cannot understate this. It is a strange thing, but many people over the years have found little/big treasures there that just uplift their mood. Multiple people suffer depression; this place is more than a tip shop. Steve the manager told me folk have been reduced to tears on hearing the news. The young opportunists, the artists, the rich, the poor, the broken, the lonely – all love this tip shop. What is KCDC thinking? It's more than waste going to the tip, it's a place that strongly gives each treasure hunter hope, and without a doubt people leave there smiling. KCDC has underestimated the well-being this place brings to the subculture I am part of. Please rethink this. Mental health is important and surely eyes could be opened to this reality. There are many in Kapiti who NEED this shop.

Annie Bythell, Ōtaki

Over-regulation stifles freedom

I am a resident close to the freedom camping site near the Ōtaki River mouth. Freedom camping on the beach is a popular drawcard for Ōtaki visitors who enjoy the spectacular sunsets and support our small businesses. Ōtaki itself is a special bi-cultural place, friendly and welcoming; please let it stay that way and not become like Wellington where parking and over-regulation restrict freedom camping. I cycle daily through the freedom camping area. It's always a joy to see families fishing, swimming and socialising, etc. Most people who come here respect the rules and keep the place tidy. Felicity Underhill's comments (Ōtaki Today, April 2025) would

restrict this freedom with more regulations. If there is some litter about, we locals usually pick it up and place it in the bins provided. It's no big deal. As for human waste, I've not seen this and it's an exaggeration. Another toilet would be good as the present one gets busy at times. The campers I have seen are respectful, colourful in their creative wagons, and bring joy to the area. Why should they be restricted further with law enforcement, when they 99% respect this place. Over-regulation stifles freedom. Maybe a few extra rubbish bins, and another toilet with educational signage would dampen Felicity Downhill's concerns.

Jacob De Ruiter, Ōtaki Beach

Taking more than a fair share of campers

Kāpiti Coast District Council is proposing to allow 14 overnight campervan parks at the Ōtaki Beach car park, more than four times what's allowed at all other Kāpiti coastal sites. Ōtaki is taking more than its fair share of the load. As a nearby resident who walks through this area daily, I'm most concerned. The car park is used by families, elderly locals, and beachgoers, and it's directly across from a rest home. Turning it into a campsite would drastically change its character, and risk the safety of regular users, many of whom are children. A line of campervans would create a wall of vehicles, blocking views and limiting access for others. There's been no trial, no clear plan to manage waste or night-time safety, and existing problems with rubbish and human waste near the Ōtaki River haven't been resolved. This proposal would spread those problems to the middle of a residential area. I'm not opposed to two or three campervans at a time sharing this space, just like other places along the coast, but this plan feels rushed and disproportionate. Any change should be fair, managed properly, and trialled first.

Teresa Smart, Ōtaki Beach

Tim Costley MP for Ōtaki



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I look forward to meeting with you soon.





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Bode gets Homestar tick, makes Ōtaki offer

Bode Homes has been awarded a 7 rating by the NZ Green Building Council for two of its small builds.

The rating applies regionally to the Bode 56 (lower North Island) and Bode 32 (Canterbury). Both are being sold from Bode's yard on the old highway through Ōtaki. Bodes builds and designs to the stringent Homestar criteria.

The high rating – out of 10 – comes just as new research shows owners of Homestar properties can save up to \$98,000 over a 30-year loan.

A recent Infometrics report said that although “green” houses might cost a little more (0.5-1 percent), there were big savings in the long run. Not only are they designed to be healthier, warmer and drier, but also more energy efficient.

That can lead to savings in electricity, but more significantly, means homeowners can access lower mortgage interest rates through schemes such as ANZ's Healthy Home Loan package.

Bode general manager Euripides Cassels says he's delighted with the Homestar rating – “It reflects Bode's high environmental credentials.”

Meantime, Bode is offering Ōtaki homeowners an opportunity to secure a Bode 32 model for only \$119,000.

Three of the Bode 32s are available in Ōtaki (one other is in Christchurch). Bode is also offering the option to defer \$20,000 of the total cost interest-free for three years, bringing the upfront cost down to \$99,000.

The deferred amount can be used either toward establishing the home on site or simply to ease the initial investment.

The offer is timely, with the housing market shifting back in favour of homeowners – marked by falling interest rates and rising rental returns. Property owners are looking at ways to maximise the value and use of their existing land.

Many properties in Ōtaki are still on large sections, some of them the traditional quarter-acre block. Adding another building for housing can be an attractive proposition.

The Bode 32 is a fully self-contained, turn-key one-bedroom home designed for homeowners on larger blocks looking to create an additional income stream or boost their property's capital value.

“The Bode 32 is a genuine solution to many people's housing problems,” Euripides says. “It's especially designed for people who want to make better use of their land, whether it's for a relative who needs a home, or to create income as a long-term rental or short-term Airbnb.”

A one-bedroom unit could provide more than \$1000 a month in income after lending costs, or up to \$2500 monthly through Airbnb, assuming 80 percent occupancy.

■ See bodehomes.co.nz and bode.co.nz/homestar

Time to ‘retreat into mindfulness’

Rachel Tobin would never have thought 40 years ago that she'd be attending, let alone facilitating silent retreats.

“I would have said ‘I can't think of anything worse’!

But in June, Rachel is leading a four-day mid-winter mindfulness and qi gong retreat at Strathean Retreat Centre, a cozy rural haven at Hautere, near Ōtaki.

She will be helping people find mindfulness – a buzz word for a long while now, but also backed by research that validates its power to lower stress levels, settle the mind, and improve mood. Qi gong is an ancient system of movement that enhances energy and relaxes the mind and the body.

The retreat, called Natural Ease and Mindful Living, includes a varied programme of qi gong, breath work, somatic movement lessons and a variety of mindfulness practices in sitting, speaking, listening, walking, and in nature. Because many people come to a retreat in various degrees of overdrive, emphasis is placed on down regulating the nervous system in preparation for meditation.

“In meditation we practise settling into the essence, or beingness, of our original nature – and there's a lot of guidance around this,” Rachel says.

People are welcome to join as much or as little of the scheduled programme as they wish.

“This is a retreat in which none of the usual social expectations are placed on you. It offers a rare chance for you to come home to the OK-ness of yourself, just as you are.”

Rachel says it's not uncommon for people to



Rachel Tobin, who is leading the mid-winter retreat. Photo supplied

say after a retreat that the experience has been life-changing.

Retreat means “to draw back”. In many cultures and native traditions, going on a retreat was not considered a form of escapism. It was seen as a meaningful and necessary part of life – to restore balance, gain wisdom, and deepen awareness.

Modern-day retreats offer the opportunity to drop all your responsibilities for a period of time, to have healthy meals prepared, to put down the need

to wear a social mask, and to be guided through mindfulness practices by someone who has walked their own journey – often with a fair amount of difficulty – and who helps to bring you closer to your own innate wisdom and joy.

“A retreat allows you to prioritise the art of ‘being’ rather than ‘doing’. We're human ‘beings’ after all,” Rachel says.

• Rachel has been exploring meditation and movement for more than 35 years and has always been interested in living with more ease, freedom and wellbeing. She leads meditation and qi gong classes, and retreats, and works as a biodynamic craniosacral therapist.

■ For more about the Natural Ease and Mindful Living retreat, see theartofmindfulness.co.nz/strathean or call Rachel on 021 473 012

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The Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 help by setting out your responsibilities to manage the trees on your property. They also include our responsibilities to inform you and advice on how you can manage your trees.

YOUR TREES & POWER SUPPLY

Property owners and electricity distribution (lines) companies have a legal responsibility to ensure the safety and security of electricity supply for people, businesses, and communities.

Trees and vegetation growing too close to power lines are a key cause of unplanned power outages. That's why the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations are important. It sets out what property owners and Electra are obligated to do to keep everyone safe.

Here's what you need to know about your responsibilities.

THE DANGERS OF TREES NEAR POWER LINES

If trees or branches come into contact with power lines it can cause damage, widespread outages, and create risk of serious injury or death.

As a property owner, you're responsible for any trees on your property, and could be liable for the significant cost of any damage to power lines. That's why it's important to check trees or hedges regularly and take appropriate action if they do pose a risk. If you're unsure what to do, contact us for advice.

Trees need to be kept at a safe distance from power equipment because:

- Children who climb trees close to power lines are at risk of serious injury or death.
- In severe weather, vegetation can become electrically 'live' and may pose an electrocution risk.
- Trees can fall during bad weather, damaging power lines and causing outages.

- Trees close to power lines may cause electrical sparking, resulting in fire.
- Tree roots can grow around underground electricity cables, damaging the insulation and causing power supply failure.

MAINTAINING A SAFE DISTANCE

In October 2024, the Regulations were updated to increase the minimum safe distances between trees and power lines, and a new 'clear to the sky' requirement for some trees. There is a grace period relating to these until 16 October 2026.

If your tree is growing within the Cut-back or Notice Zone (Tree A), you may get a legal notice saying your trees must be trimmed soon because they're getting too close to power equipment.

Should they reach the Growth Limit Zone (Tree B), you will get a legal notice requiring them to be trimmed, which can be done by Electra or an Electra approved contractor.

MANAGING TREES NEAR POWER LINES

Cutting or trimming trees in the vicinity of power lines is dangerous. Touching a live power line or a tree close to the line can result in serious injury, or even death by fatal electric shock.

RESPONSIBILITY

According to the Regulations, no person is permitted within four metres (Controlled Access Zone) of a power line without prior approval from Electra.

Therefore, only Electra or an Electra approved contractor can be used to safely trim or cut down trees growing within four metres of any power line. Request a quote to have your trees trimmed by Electra's certified team of arborists at: www.electra.co.nz/contact-us.

FELLING TREES NEAR POWER LINES

Check there is a distance of at least twice the height of the tree between the tree and any nearby power lines. If it is within this distance you will need to use Electra or an Electra approved contractor, or you could be liable for the cost of any damage to our network if the tree lands on our lines – not to mention the potential safety risk of coming into contact with live lines!

NOTICES

Electra continually checks the network for trees and vegetation that pose a risk to power equipment. You'll receive a Notice if your trees need attention under the Regulations.

You can also declare no interest in your trees near our network. That means you won't be liable for damage the tree causes to the lines, and that we have permission to carry out necessary safety work, including removal.

FIRST CUT OR TRIM

Electra may cover the cost to perform the first cut or trim on a tree encroaching on a power line, if the following conditions apply, or are met:

- according to Electra's records, the trees have not been subject to a previous cut or trim at our cost.
- the trees are not around a service line.
- the trees have not been the subject of a previous agreement, and
- the tree owner grants access to the site.

If all of these conditions apply, Electra will issue you with a Notice and perform the work at no charge to you.

SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT CUT OR TRIM

After that you're responsible for taking care of the trees on your property. This includes organising and paying for Electra or an Electra approved contractor to trim them safely if they're close to power equipment.

Being proactive and inspecting your trees will help ensure the power can stay on for everyone.

Please note that if your trees cause any problems on the electricity network, you may be charged for all repair costs.

FINES

You can be fined up to \$10,000 if you don't comply with written requests to cut/trim your trees or don't tell us the work is taking place. We need a minimum of 3 days' notice.

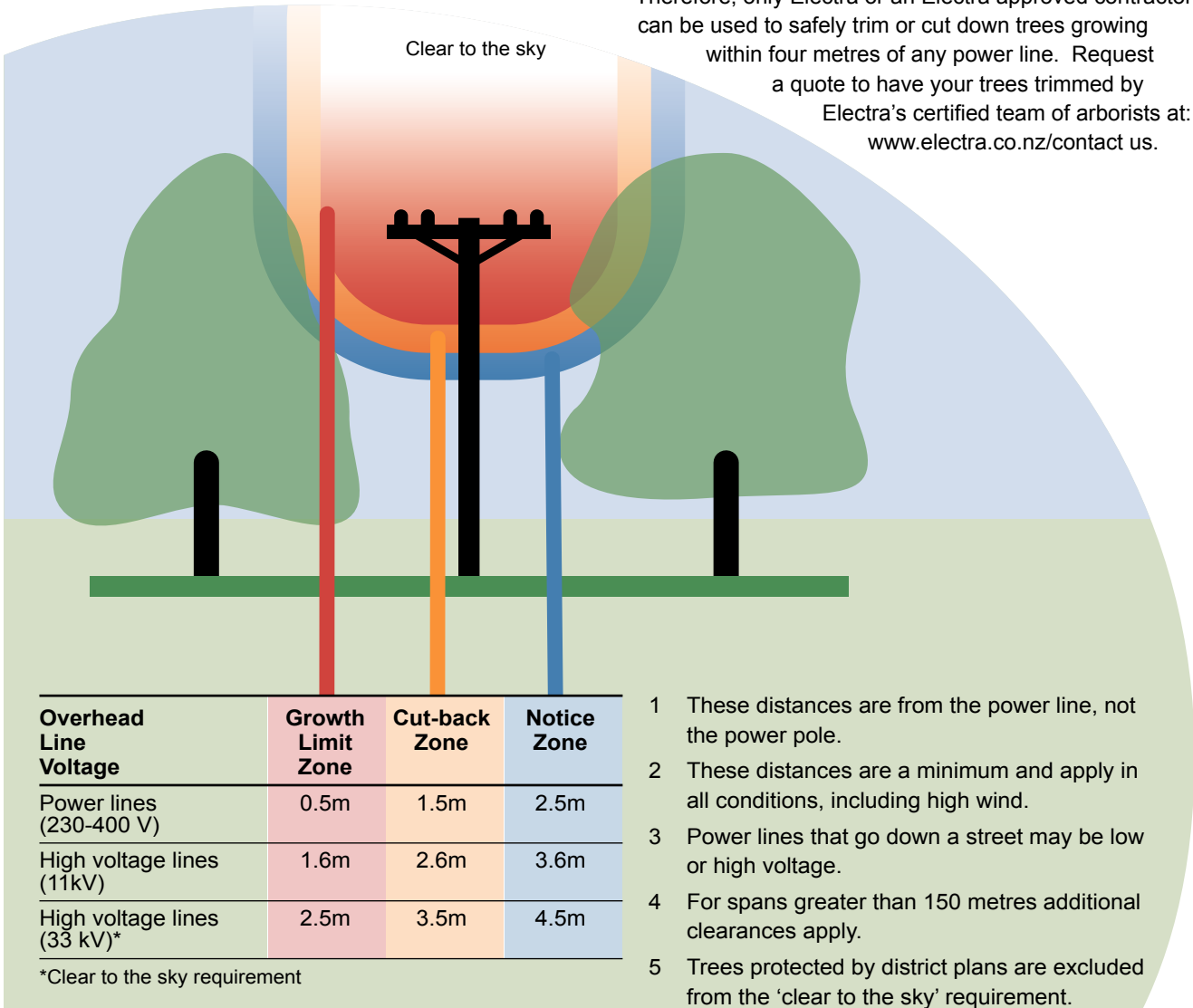
You can also be fined an additional \$500 for every day this doesn't happen.

If your trees are deemed an immediate danger to the network, we're obligated to remove the hazard. If you haven't kept your trees clear of power lines or not returned the required paperwork, you'll be responsible for all the costs we incur to remove the hazard.

CHAT TO US

Your experience with us is important. If we haven't met your expectations for any reason, please let us know so we can discuss it with you.

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MUSIC

KĀPITI CHORALE

European Masters

- 3pm Saturday 24 May
- St Paul's Church, Paraparaumu



Kāpiti Chorale invites audiences to a concert of sacred choral music by some of Europe's most celebrated composers.

The programme includes music by Fauré, Haydn, Gounod, Franck, Poulenc, and Mozart, and concludes with a special performance of *Messe de la Délivrance* by Théodore Dubois. This rarely performed work was written in 1918 to mark the end of the First World War. Rich in drama and expression, it brings the concert to a powerful close.

The chorale will be joined by soloists Barbara Paterson (soprano), Richard Taylor (tenor), Charle Rainey (bass); with instrumentalists: Jonathan Berkahn (organ and piano), Samuel Berkahn (string bass).

The performance is conducted by musical director

Eric Sidoti, with support from assistant musical director Ann-Marie Stapp.

Tickets 35, students \$15. Online tickets from Eventfinda. Also from Books & Co, Ōtaki; Moby Dickens' Bookshop, Paraparaumu Beach; and The Bookshelf, Waikanae. For ticket enquiries, email: tickets@kapitichorale.org.nz or phone 04 976 3491.

MULLED WINE CONCERTS

Michael Endres piano recital

- 2.30pm Sunday 25 May
 - St Peter's Community Hall, Paekākāriki
- The highly regarded German pianist Michael Endres will return to give a Mulled Wine Concert in Paekākāriki.

International critics have described Endres as "one of the most interesting pianists recording today". He has released 35 CDs during his career and his extensive prizewinning discography includes the prestigious Diapason d'Or (France) which he was recently awarded for the third time, and the Choc du Musique, which he has won twice.

He has appeared at major festivals and concert-halls all over the world. A prominent academic musician, Endres had a distinguished teaching career in Germany, Norway and New Zealand before he decided to concentrate on performance and recording.

His reviews from music publications have been outstanding: *Diapason* magazine said of his 2018 release: "Splendidly recorded by Cologne Radio, in an acoustic which allows the piano to resonate with a fullness, a brilliance without hardness, and a breadth of sonority which is ideal for Schubert, these works chosen by Michael Endres flow endlessly between jubilation and drama."

His Kāpiti programme will be a feast of "song inspired piano music" including the Schubert A major sonata D959. Endres notes that Schubert's works are influenced by his 600 songs and the late A major sonata is no exception to his singing style of writing. Other song-influenced compositions on the programme come from Schumann, Liszt, Tchaikowsky and arrangements of well-known songs by George Gershwin.

"Following the huge success of our opening concert this year, we are very excited to be continuing our presentation of new Kāpiti concerts," says Mulled Wine Concerts organiser Mary Gow. "As before, our objective is to present the best music while keeping admission prices at an affordable level. The wonderful St Peter's Hall has excellent acoustics. What a pleasure it will be to hear exquisite music in such a pleasant setting."

Tickets: Adults \$35, students \$15. Online sales: marygow@gmail.com Info: 021 101 9609. Ticket outlets: Magpie Paramata, Mana Esplanade; Finn's Hotel, Paekākāriki; Moby Dickens Bookshop, Paraparaumu Beach; Jenoa, Mahara Place, Waikanae.





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HUATAU/Comment

PLAIN SPEAKING: IAN CARSON

Thinking of a natural burial under the Mill Road roundabout

The smack of my palm on my forehead was probably heard down at the intersection of Mill Road and the old state highway.

I'd just heard that the roundabout as we know it there was to be flattened, ostensibly because wide loads and long vehicles have had difficulty negotiating it. And the watermain works inching their way up Mill Road were going to include the roundabout, where new water pipes would be installed.

But that wasn't the reason I now had a big red welt on my face – it



was that the work was to take three months, beginning in July. I'm actually all in favour of getting on and fixing creaking infrastructure, especially old pipes that leak precious water and rupture at the worst of times. But I'm sure I'm not the only one who's a bit over all the works around town.

If Wayne Brown got voted in as mayor of Auckland City on the populist issue of road cone overload, someone here taking up the cause would have to be a shoo-in for the mayoralty, to be decided at local body election in October.

Maybe it's too much of a good thing. We all appreciate the new expressway, we love the smooth surface of the old highway to the Ōtaki River bridge, and we reckon the new clip-on is pretty cool.

No doubt we'll also like the new footpath along Riverbank Road and nice new intersections still to come through the Railway part of town as

the revocation work proceeds. But we've been putting up with roadworks since construction of the expressway began in 2017 – and if you want to go further back, the upgrade of the township in 2011-12. With winter coming, there will be lots of SAD people about (those suffering from seasonal affective disorder). I'm picking there will be plenty similarly afflicted with CRAP (cone related aversion personality). Drivers will be avoiding Mill Road, Aotaki Street and Riverbank Road just in case they get the jitters at the sight of more road works, bringing on a sudden CRAP attack.

It's not SAD, but it's true. Of course, all these works cost a lot of money, and we should be grateful Ōtaki is getting the benefit of the expenditure – from both local and central government. One way to ease the cost of these projects is to leverage the work to get most benefit. While we're running out of burial space but digging holes everywhere, I'm thinking I could help out. I'm changing my will so I can go into a cloth sack and be dumped into the new Mill Road-highway roundabout. Kill two birds with one stone, so to speak. ■ *Ian is editor of Ōtaki Today*

THE ELECTORATE: TIM COSTLEY, MP

Kids at market well ahead

I had the pleasure of judging the Ōtaki Kids Market on a recent Sunday.

I once again met some amazing children who were warm and engaging, smart and savvy, and managed to sell me everything from cupcakes and bracelets to an inflatable microphone!

Kiwi kids deserve every opportunity to thrive. That's why our government is focused on lifting achievement and making sure every student can reach their full potential. As Term 2 gets under way, children across the country are getting the basics done right, with an hour each of reading, writing, and maths every day. With a structured approach in every classroom, they're receiving consistent, high-quality education no matter where they go to school, giving every child the chance to succeed.



To help students stay engaged, we've banned cell phones in schools, creating a focused environment free from distractions. At the same time, we're making sure they have the tools they need to do well, with 836,000 maths workbooks and textbooks delivered to kids up to age 12, along with guidebooks to support teachers.

Recently I invited Education Minister Erica Stanford to spend a day with me in Ōtaki, meeting principals, visiting staff, and announcing an exciting initiative. From 2027 all kids will learn about money at school. The kids at our market are well ahead, but for everyone else, they'll be taught how to budget, save, invest, and understand things like loans and insurance, giving them the skills they need to manage money confidently as they grow up.

Another big area Erica and I hear about is learning support. I'm excited to hear what is announced in this area at the budget on May 22. Keep an eye out!

Of course, great teaching is at the heart of great learning. That's why nearly 20,000 teachers have had top-quality training in structured literacy, so they're even better equipped to help students learn and thrive.

We've also removed the cost barrier to registration and practising certificates, and we're encouraging experienced relief teachers back into schools to provide extra support where it's needed most.

Investing in education means investing in school infrastructure, too. Repeatable building designs have cut classroom costs by 28 percent, allowing 137 more classrooms to be built in 2024 compared to 2023, keeping Kiwi kids safe, warm and dry.

A massive thank you to our incredible principals, teachers, and support staff for your hard work, helping to set every Kiwi kid up for success.

■ *Tim is MP for the Ōtaki electorate*

CAM'S CORNER: CAM BUTLER

Road and revocation works continue unabated

Tēnā koutou whanau o Ōtaki.

Who has been caught out by the return of the 70km/h section of Old SH1 between Waeranga and Riverbank roads?

I've had one near miss already at the Riverbank Road intersection. It had been hoped that it would remain 50km/h given the shared path on one sides and full residential on the other, however central government wouldn't allow it. There is some confusion about what the speed limit is south of the old bridge – hopefully Waka Kotahi will sort that out soon.

Old SH1 revocation works

With the Waeranga to Riverbank Road section finished, the revocation crew are moving onto the next stages. These are to install traffic lights at the Riverbank Road intersection and move into the retail section of Old SH1. While the traffic light installation



won't be too annoying, the revocation of the shopping area will be.

The contractor will be progressing in short steps to try and minimise disruption to shops and shoppers, however you will need to have some patience as they update the area for the rest of the year.

The BIGGIE...

As part of the revocation, plus the new wastewater pipe installation heading along Mill Road, the roundabout at Old SH1/Mill Road will be removed when the wastewater works get there. It will be replaced by an unappealing, flat roundabout due to the

apparent need to move houses and wide loads through.

The biggie is the traffic issue with removing a roundabout, putting a big pipe through and then rebuilding the roundabout. Be prepared for delays!

To stand or not to stand?

The local body elections are in early October, and a number of people have already put their hands up for various roles in Kāpiti and Ōtaki. I appreciate the interest and overwhelming positive feedback people have given me about standing again. I am just working through where I sit on that. Family is important to me, plus business concerns have to be taken into account when looking at the time demands of standing for council.

I have unfinished business however... Keep being Sunny, Ōtaki. ■ *Like our Ōtaki Community Board Facebook page.* ■ *Cam is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board.*

TE HORO OUTLOOK: MICHAEL MOORE

End of financial year grants and awards

This time of year we announce our final community grant allocations.

It's also time to get your nominations in for the Kāpiti Good Sorts Awards and the Wellington region community awards. These must be in by 5pm Saturday, May 31.

The Kāpiti Good Sorts awards recognise individual residents who've made a lasting impact in the community. These awards are run by the Kāpiti council, and are about celebrating our local heroes – those who care about our community and work hard to make a difference for those who call Kāpiti home. Based on public nominations, these awards recognise exemplary service or leadership in our community.

The awards go to individuals who show kotahitanga (community spirit) by: Taha rangatira, leading by example, through compassion and kindness, to support and serve our communities; taha manaaki, enhancing the wellbeing of vulnerable people in our community; taha whānau, creating new ways to help our communities be safe, healthy, thriving and connected.

At the same time, you can nominate a group or organisation for the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards. With sponsor Wellington Airport we work together to honour the efforts made by groups of



residents in our district.

The awards recognise the contributions made by community groups in six categories: arts and culture; education and child/youth development; health and wellbeing; heritage and environment; sport and leisure; and rising star category for emerging groups. Unlike the Kāpiti Good Sorts, these awards recognise community groups and organisations, not individual volunteers.

I'm honoured to sit on the judging panel with Mayor Janet Holborow and my community board chairs. We'll hold a local awards ceremony for both the Kāpiti Good Sorts and regional community awards on Thursday, August 7, at Te Raukura ki Kāpiti.

Waikanae Community Board's final community grants for the 2024-25 financial year will be decided at our June meeting.

The Waikanae Promotion Fund helps groups or individuals who promote our area and community through their activities. This

includes events or activities that make Te Horo and Waikanae a great place to live, attract visitors, or promote our area visitor destination.

Our account interest, about \$40,000, from the Waikanae Capital Improvement Fund, provides community grants. These are only available once a year. These grants help local organisations with capital projects that benefit a large part of the Waikanae, Peka Peka and Te Horo community.

For this grant, capital expenditure means money spent by an organisation to buy equipment or to upgrade and improve things like property or buildings. The nomination criteria and applications are available via the links below.

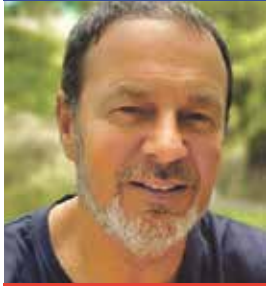
Please note that our community board meetings will now begin at 6.30pm (previously 7pm). You can also follow board news and info at facebook.com/WaikanaeCommunityBoard

- *To nominate a Good Sort, please go to kapiticoast.govt.nz/GoodSorts*
- *Next Waikanae Community Board meeting 6.30pm Tuesday, June 10, at Waikanae Beach Community Hall, 24 Rauparaha St, Waikanae Beach.*
- *Grant applications close May 23 – please go to tinyURL.com/WCBgrants*

■ *Michael is chair of Waikanae Community Board and a Te Horo resident.*

Walk in the shoes of another to feel empathy

JUST A THOUGHT



FRASER CARSON

It's hard to imagine a happening more crippling to the spirit of a parent than the death of a child.

Those who have been through it understand the starkness of the unimaginable – the passing of a loved one who one would usually expect to be still here long after the parent's own departure.

But for those of us who've never experienced something so confronting, we can but put ourselves into the person's shoes and do our best to empathise.

Many years back my business employed a woman who radiated bubbly enthusiasm in everything she did. I was surprised to learn that, in her past, she'd lost a nine-year-old son. How could it be, I wondered, that she'd managed to resurrect her life so she could be a positive spirit to others?

While we never discussed it, it's inevitable that the impact on her



mind and spirit must have been overwhelming. However, I assumed she'd received good support from others and that time had healed, at least in part. But I also imagined that the pain of her loss never left her and that her outward effervescence helped her cope.

Empathy is surely about being kind and considerate to our fellow travellers. But I wonder too if the ability to bounce back from adversity also has something to do with empathy? Could it be that those who most easily walk in another's shoes, also give themselves a better pathway out of a difficult situation.

We certainly know the world is witnessing a troubling rise in lack

of empathy and, with it, people are less happy. Hate and intolerance, manifesting in various forms such as racism, xenophobia, religious intolerance, and discrimination against marginalised individuals and communities is sparking concern among many policymakers, activists, and citizens worldwide, prompting a deeper examination of its causes and implications.

In times of social upheaval or uncertainty, people may seek solace in familiar identities and view those who are different as threats.

But, whatever the causes and the social drivers, it's a pretty sure bet that any individual who promotes their own superiority by denigrating

others, say dark-skinned people, women, gays, Muslims or just poor people, is afraid of something. That 'something' is obviously other people who likely do not conform to what they consider to be 'normal'.

What's worse, this fear can be manipulated by those in power to foster division and maintain control, as we are currently seeing in Trump's America. Whether it is fear of immigrants, religious minorities, or those with differing political views, fear can lead to the rejection and vilification of entire communities – a culture war.

While this fear of the 'other' is a powerful motivator for movements such as white supremacy, it also has

the effect of diminishing the hater because their mind-set and support network is entirely one-dimensional.

Of course there is no logic for all this, even though we can easily point to an uncertain and changing world. It's a visceral human response but offers nothing more than a race to the bottom.

That is unless each one of us works on building meaningful empathy for those whose experiences of life are different from our own.

The death of a child is easier to understand if one has experienced it oneself. The passions of a Somali immigrant are much easier to accept if you happen to also be Samali. The mind of a transvestite is likely a mystery to any non transvestite.

We have in our own midst, people in high places who freely dispense their views and advice to people and communities that are a million miles from their own experiences. For all the same reasons, I'd reckon that the best person to ask about sexism is a woman who has experienced it, or best ask a person about xenophobia, who is from a marginalised ethnic community.

To a parent who has lost a child, quite possibly the last thing anyone should do is offer wisdom and advice. Just know that it's someone else's lived experience and give them your ear and tons of empathy.

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

ADVERTORIAL

Reopening Blue Bluff after slips a 'no-brainer'

By Cr ROB KOFOED

The Tararuas and Otaki Forks have been very much part of our family's life. We have enjoyed family picnics, swimming in the river, climbing Mount Hector, and doing the Southern Crossing. Like many people, we haven't been able to enjoy these activities because a big slip in 2021 closed the road at Blue Bluff. It followed an earlier slip in 2016. The council was reluctant to clear the 2021 slip for various reasons. But I see access to Ōtaki Forks as vitally important to our community – and to visitors. That's why I advocated on behalf of the community to ensure the road was reopened. I also prepared a project plan that would swing into action if there was another serious slip. This would provide access via swing bridges across the river to bypass the unstable area. Due diligence is to be carried out by the council in the meantime. I worked with Ediface Bridge Builders and Frame Engineering to develop two bridge concepts. I then guided a motion through a full council meeting in June last year, which was passed with unanimous support. Meantime, Goodman Contractors have done a sterling job to clear the slip and road access to the Ōtaki Forks will be reinstated soon. It's important access to the Forks is maintained, for many reasons, including:

- its popularity for family picnics
- the well-used camp ground
- trampers accessing the Tararuas



Above, a view from my plane of Blue Bluff with the slip cleared, and far right, on a recent damp day when I was able to see first-hand the sterling work done on the road.

At right is my swing bridge plan that would ensure access would be maintained in the event of another slip.

- Search and rescue access
- Te Araroa national walkway

Ōtaki Forks is a destination Kāpiti needs – it was a no-brainer to ensure it was opened up for the community again.

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 will be running regular paid articles in this newspaper.



Kāpiti Update

May 2025



Sticking to our plan for 2025/26

We're finalising our Annual Plan for 2025/26, setting out what we'll do in the year ahead and the rates needed to get it done.

This Annual Plan sticks with our objective set out in our Long-term Plan (LTP) adopted last year – building a resilient future for Kāpiti.

The overall rates increase for the coming year will be 6.9 percent, although the impact on rates for each property will depend on its value, type, and location.

Because we're not changing much from the LTP, we're not consulting on the Annual Plan, but are always open to comments and feedback.

► [Find out more at kapiticoast.govt.nz/annualplan](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/annualplan)



Help us design an accessible accessway at Ōtaki Beach

To make it easier for people, especially those with mobility issues, to view and visit some of our destination beaches, we're developing accessways for Ōtaki Beach near the pavilion, and at Maclean Park in Paraparaumu.

Beach accessways can include pathways, accessible ramps, lookout areas, seating and lighting, and more. We've worked with stakeholders to develop draft concept plans, but before they're finalised we want to hear what's important to you about these areas and your ideas for the accessways.

Tell us what you think by 1 June.

► [Find out more at haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/BeachAccessways](https://haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/BeachAccessways)



We're updating our flood maps

We use modelling to create flood maps that show where high rainfall could lead to flooding around our homes and neighbourhoods. This allows us to:

- plan and prioritise infrastructure upgrades
- make good planning and development decisions
- plan for managing flood emergencies, and
- provide flood risk insights for your property and neighbourhood.

Our previous maps were published in 2011. The updated maps are more detailed, cover areas not previously modelled, and account for improvements like stormwater upgrades and new infrastructure.

We want your feedback on the draft flood maps to make sure they reflect what you know about your place and neighbourhood, like drainage features, historic flooding, or property characteristics our modelling might have missed.

► [Give us feedback at haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/FloodMaps](https://haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/FloodMaps)



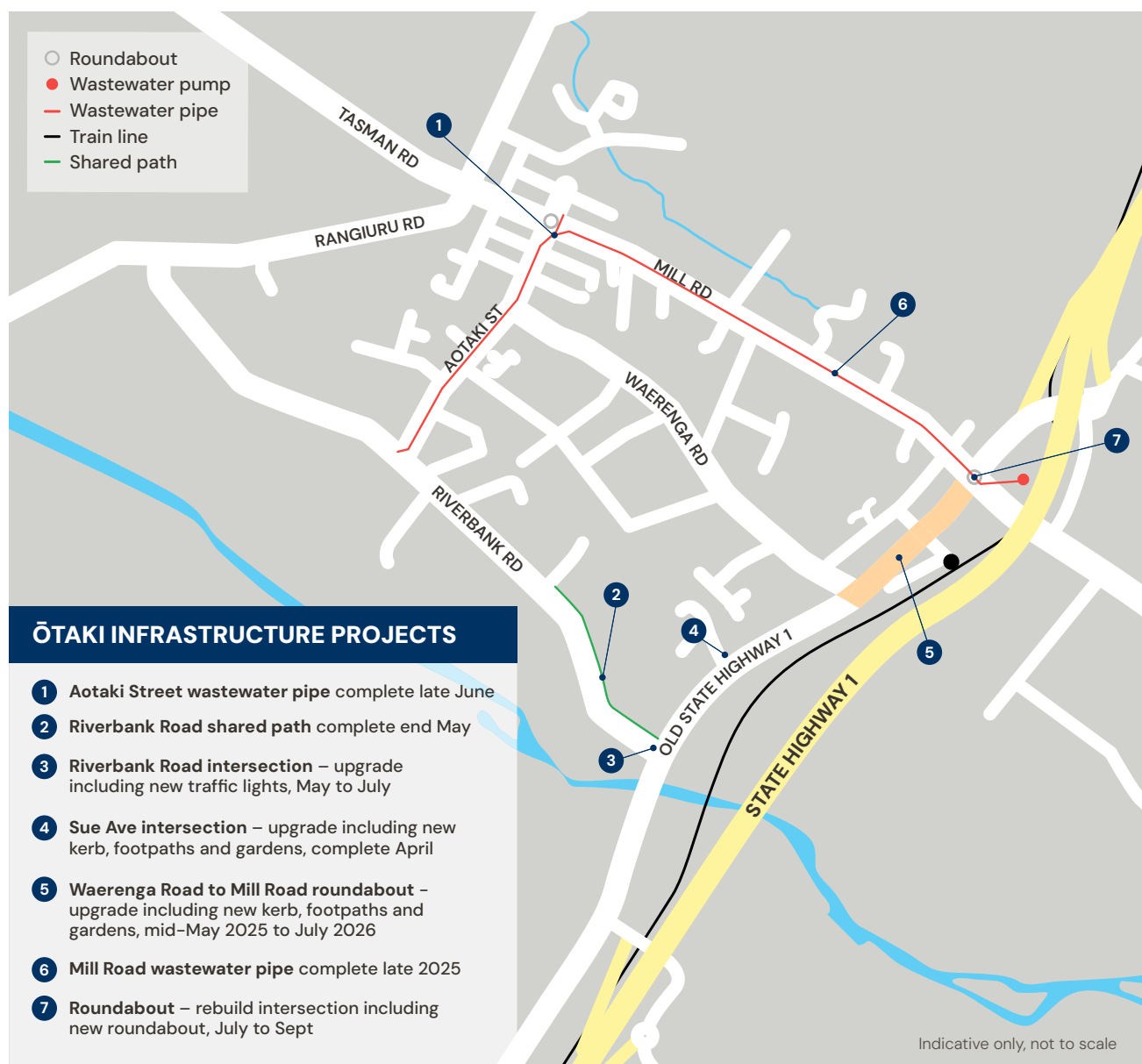
Say thanks with a nomination

Our annual awards celebrate the people and groups who make Kāpiti a better place. The Kāpiti Good Sorts honour individuals for their outstanding contributions, while the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards recognise the groups and organisations that make a positive contribution.

Nominating a remarkable individual or group enhances their mana, shows appreciation for their efforts, and highlights the value of their service, which can help with future opportunities. Most importantly, it's about expressing our collective gratitude and coming together as a community to say ngā mihi nui (thank you).

Nominations close 31 May.

► [Find our more at kapiticoast.govt.nz/GoodSorts](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/GoodSorts)



Ōtaki civil project updates

Ōtaki is in the midst of a major, once-in-a-generation investment in upgrading infrastructure.

Installation of new wastewater pipes along Aotaki Street and Mill Road are progressing, with completion set for late 2025.

The Mill Road/old SH1 roundabout will be rebuilt with new wastewater pipes installed. This work will begin in July and is expected to take three months.

Construction of the new reservoir is nearly complete and it will come online in May.

NZTA is leading works to transform the old State Highway 1 into a fit-for-purpose local road before handing it over to Council. Intersection upgrades at Sue Ave and Riverbank Road will be finished in July, while works between Waerenga Ave and the Mill Road roundabout are scheduled to take another 14 months.

We understand some of this work can be disruptive and thank you for your patience and cooperation as we work to make our community stronger and more resilient.

► [Find out more at kapiticoast.govt.nz/OtakiProjects](https://kapiticoast.govt.nz/OtakiProjects)



A concrete improvement

As part of ongoing improvements to our systems, the aeration lagoon at the Ōtaki Wastewater Treatment Plant is being upgraded to eliminate leakage. A concrete base is being constructed to replace the previous gravel floor of the 2,000-cubic-metre lagoon.

The aeration lagoon plays an important role in the treatment of wastewater. It mixes dissolved oxygen into the liquid, which binds with nitrogen to remove carbon and ammonia. Controlled microbial growth forms a carbon-dense sludge, which settles to the bottom of a clarifier and is then scraped away for disposal.

The lagoon upgrade is due to be finished by mid-May.



Blue Bluff slip almost cleared

The slip at Blue Bluff on Ōtaki Gorge Road is nearly cleared, revealing a natural spring on the cliff face. Engineers are designing a method to manage the spring's flow to prevent future slips.

The original retaining wall was found to be in fit-for-purpose condition, but an additional section needs to be built to support the road near a steep drop-off. This extra work is likely to extend the project by a few weeks, with the road now expected to reopen in June or July.

Like news? There are lots of ways to keep up to date with what's happening around the district and to get involved.



MAHI MĀRA/Gardening



Broccoli seedlings in pockets in a greencrop.



Broccoli shoots – yum!

Growing broccoli

Broccoli is the easiest, quickest and most productive brassica to grow – easier than cabbage, heaps faster than cauliflower, and waaay more productive than both on account of all the mini broccoli heads that sprout after the main head is cut.

EDIBLE GARDEN



KATH IRVINE

To grow lots of these minis, you first need to grow a good-sized broccoli head. And to grow a good-sized broccoli head, you need to first grow a good-sized broccoli plant!

My recipe couldn't be simpler, although it does

have a few parts to it. Success comes when they're all in action together.

Healthy seedlings are your first essential. Flat, green, good-sized leaves, with the roots just starting to pop out the bottom of the punnet.

Get ready by making a mix of homemade compost and/or vermicastings and/or really well rotted manure. Then prep your bed. There are two ways.

The most fertile way is to plant seedlings among an established greencrop. Chop greencrop back creating a little glade every 30cm or so. Dollop some compost mix and plant into it. As the seedlings grow, chop back ever more greencrop to keep light shining in. Drop the chopped bits back onto the soil as a nourishing mulch.

If you don't have a greencrop on the go, spread a 2cm layer of mix across the bed. Fertile soil won't need much, maybe a sprinkling across the top.



- On heavy clay or hard soil, aerate the soil, then make a raised ridge with your compost mix.
 - On sandy soil, do the opposite – go down! Scoop out a 10cm trench, lay wet newspaper and fill with your mix.
 - Charge up either of these scenarios by soaking the ground with liquid seaweed, fish or comfrey pre-planting.
- As well as good preps, the other thing that makes all the difference is to give each broccoli seedling due space, which generally speaking will be 30–40cm depending on variety. If I'm confident in my soil, I push the plants closer together – and if not, spread them further apart.
- Watch your seedlings as they grow. They show you whether your preps were spot on. Expect new leaves to show after about a week. If not, boost them along weekly with weak liquid feeds, and when they're about 30cm tall (before

the head starts to develop), an extra dollop of vermicastings or compost. The main head will be ready to cut about 12 weeks after transplant.

If you haven't yet grown a decent broccoli, let's pause and reflect a mo. Huge, leafy plants and tiny wee heads means you went a bit nuts adding compost and/or fertiliser. Try a greencrop next time and home-made compost.

Tiny plants and even tinier heads means hungry plants, so you have compact soil, or it's too dry or too wet. Check the soil to work it out.

Keep trying! Broccoli are well worth it. One happy plant will continue to provide broccoli shoots for months, and in some cases, years.

■ *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 garden consultations.*

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HAUORA-PŪTAIO /Health-science

Live blood analysis – there’s nothing to it

A recent *New Zealand Herald* article with the headline “Live Blood Analysis: ‘Nonsense’ being offered at string of clinics around New Zealand” had health experts declare that the blood screening service was “bogus” and that “there is zero science to it and it is quackery”.

It’s good to see the media calling it out, otherwise people might start to think there was something to it. Live blood analysis (aka, Hemaview or nutritional blood analysis) uses high-resolution dark field microscopy to observe live blood cells. Alternative medicine proponents claim it can identify a wide range of health problems, including vitamin and mineral deficiencies, bacterial or parasitic infections, liver/kidney/immune system dysfunction, heavy metal and toxin exposure, pH imbalance, oxidative stress, and many other health issues - it’s a long list. A classic hallmark of medical quackery is that a single technique or device can diagnose or cure most ailments. Live blood analysis practitioners claim it’s based on the medical science of haematology – haematologists disagree. Buying a microscope and putting on a white coat doesn’t make you a scientist or mean that you are doing science. Science is based on reliable, accurate and

verifiable observation. To do a red blood cell count you can’t just put a drop of blood on a microscope slide and expect to accurately count the five million red blood cells present in the coagulating mass. Scientific methodology involves careful sample preparation, replicate sampling and quality control checks. Published analytic validity and clinical validity studies show that not only can you accurately measure the component of interest, but that those observations are meaningful and accurately determine the presence or absence of a health problem. That is science. Live blood analysis isn’t science, it’s pseudoscience. Only a small number of studies have been published on it, and none of those studies provide any credible evidence it can identify the health problems proponents claim. Consequently, hospitals and medical clinics don’t use it, and health experts don’t endorse it. For most of the things that live blood analysis practitioners claim to be able to measure, such as blood pH or vitamin deficiencies, there are already science-based, validated, and precise tests. Live blood analysis isn’t regulated; there is no official training requirement, and no government sanctioned recognised qualification. Anyone can buy a microscope and set up shop.



HEALTH SCIENCE
DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

Practitioners are careful to offer the disclaimer that live blood analysis is not a diagnostic tool to diagnose or treat any medical condition. But, telling a client that something is wrong with their blood and following up with a treatment programme sure looks like a diagnosis – if it looks like a duck, swims like a duck and quacks like a duck, then it probably is a duck. And live blood analysis is not an “educational tool” for clients, since when do we base education on pseudoscience and misinformation? Live blood analysis practitioners misidentify microscope slide artifacts (contamination, squished cells, or meaningless patterns) as pathology. For example, they claim to see yeasts and mould indicating a blood acid imbalance requiring dietary changes. If mould or yeast were present in your bloodstream you would most likely be in hospital with sepsis. Likewise, the stacking of red blood cells on top of each other (“rouleaux formation”), a common microscopy artifact, is taken to indicate acidic blood that might, variously, be caused by wrong foods for blood type, stress, caffeine, or excess refined sugar. Live blood analysis cannot determine if you have “acidic blood” (blood acidosis), a potentially life-threatening condition; and if rouleaux formation is truly present in a person’s bloodstream, and not just an artifact of slide preparation, it indicates a serious medical condition, such as multiple myeloma.

Live blood analysis cannot be dismissed as some relatively harmless alternative medicine practice. It is a bogus diagnostic technique that will readily produce false-positive and false negative diagnoses. False positive diagnoses will leave clients distressed that something is wrong with their blood when there isn’t, leading them to pursue costly and unnecessary tests and treatment programmes. False negative diagnoses mean clients would be told they are healthy when they are not, or misdiagnosed; you wouldn’t want to go to a live blood analysis practitioner with multiple myeloma just to be told your rouleaux formation indicates you are drinking too much coffee. It’s easy to see why people might be drawn to alternative medicine. People can feel let down by mainstream healthcare, whether due to difficulties accessing services, chronic ailments (which, by definition, are difficult to treat), medication side effects, or aloof and impersonal treatment. In contrast alternative medicine offers a more personalized holistic intervention. But health care should never be wrapped around a lie, it should always be built upon trustworthy assessment and testing. There is no alternative to that. ■ 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.

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PAKIHI/Business

Climbing the hill – a lesson in leadership

I found myself recently hiking up Colonial Knob – a steep, winding hill just outside of Wellington.

It was raining, I was damp, and as I climbed step after step (somewhere between 700 and 800 of them), a thought hit me hard: business is a lot like this hill.

If you're in business, in a leadership role, or frankly just living life with intention, you've faced adversity. Maybe you're in it now. And here's the reality – adversity isn't new. It's not even that special. It's just part of the terrain. The question

isn't whether you'll face it, but how you'll respond when you do.

Let me walk you through the parallels I saw on that wet, steep climb and what they mean for you as a business owner.

YOUR BUSINESS



CHRIS WHELAN

1. Do your due diligence

Before I started the hike, I packed: two apples, two water bottles, and a rainproof layer. In hindsight, I over-prepared, but preparation matters. I hadn't walked this trail before, and I wasn't going to wing it.

In business, the same rule applies. Whether you're entering a new market, launching a

product, or simply stepping into a new financial year – do your homework. Know your terrain. Study your competitors. Understand your cash flow, customer trends, and operational risks.

Due diligence might not feel exciting, but it's the difference between a good idea and a successful execution.

2. Build resilience

The track was steep. But I kept going.

In business, there will be seasons like this – economic headwinds, team challenges, cash constraints, or even personal burnout. Resilience is what gets you through it. It's not about ignoring the pain; it's about continuing to take the next step anyway. And here's the thing: resilience isn't just a mindset. It's also about what systems, routines, and habits you build around you. That's where consistency comes from.

3. Have a clear plan (and know your metrics)

You can't climb a hill without knowing where the summit is. Likewise, you can't grow your business without a plan.

That plan doesn't need to be perfect, but it must be clear. How are you launching your next campaign? How are you increasing profit? Where do you want to be in 3, 6, 12, or 36 months?

This is where metrics come in. You must know the numbers that matter, whether it's revenue, gross margin, productivity, or customer lifetime value. If you don't track progress, how do you know you're even moving?

4. Expect change (and have a plan B)

No strategy survives first contact. The rain

came in harder than expected. I'd timed it wrong. That happens in business, too.

Markets shift. Competitors react. Team members leave. Technology evolves. You must be agile. Having a good plan is one thing, but knowing how to adjust on the fly is what makes you a true leader. Have contingencies. Build some buffer. Expect to be surprised, and don't panic when it happens.

5. Put strong systems in place

A solid plan is useless without solid systems.

I'm not just talking about tech. I'm talking about business systems – repeatable processes that guide what happens every Monday morning, how you review your numbers, how you onboard staff, how you handle complaints, how you follow up on leads.

Business isn't won by heroic individual effort. It's won by simple systems executed consistently. And if your systems are only in your head, they're not systems – they're secrets. Write them down. Share them. Train your team to use them.

6. Surround yourself with the right people

Great systems need great people to run them. I see it all the time – businesses with wonderful SOPs sitting in a folder, never followed. Or businesses with people running in 10 different directions, no clear framework to align them.

You need both: structure and spirit.

Train your team. Share your vision. Take them with you. If you're climbing a hill, they should know the destination, and why it matters. Is it a \$20 million valuation? More time with family?

Freedom to travel or give back? Get clear, get aligned, and lead from the front.

7. Reconnect to your why

I didn't climb Colonial Knob just for exercise. I climbed it because I needed space to think, to reflect, to reconnect with the purpose behind what I do. You need the same. Why did you start this business? What problem are you trying to solve? What future are you building – for your customers, your family, your team?

Reconnect with your purpose regularly. It will renew your energy when times are tough. It will inspire others to follow you. And it will keep you from getting lost when the trail gets foggy.

8. Take action, even when it's raining

It rained. I still climbed. The economy might be challenging. Customers might not be spending. Hiring might be hard. But train in the rain. Show up anyway. Lead anyway. Take action anyway.

Because business rewards those who keep stepping, even when the weather's bad. When you lead with courage, your team follows. When you keep moving, your business does too.

Final thought

As I came down the mountain, a fellow hiker smiled at me and said, "How bad can life be? It's Good Friday." She was right.

There's a lot to be grateful for. Even in adversity. Even in business. Even in rain.

■ 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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JK Lee and Amy Kim at their Hi Mate Café & restaurant on Riverbank Road.

Photo Ōtaki Today



Couple work hard for Hi Mate success

When a young couple works hard to build their own business, everyone wants them to succeed.

Even more so when it’s a couple who left their own country to start a new life and family in a place they now call home.

Korean-born Amy Kim and Junkyung (JK) Lee have been running the Hi Mate café/restaurant in Riverbank Road for just over a year. They’ve put in long hours, but hope the business will ultimately become one where they don’t need to be there all the time.

“We would like to start a family,” Amy says, apologising for her sometimes faltering English. It’s not a problem for English speakers, however, as she chooses her words wisely, ensuring customers understand with as few words as possible.

“I smile all the time,” she says. “I hope that makes people comfortable – then I don’t have to talk too much.”

The smile, however, is genuine. It’s helped her and JK to build a regular clientele, who seem to enjoy the ambience – and the food.

But it doesn’t matter how much anyone smiles, the food will always be a paramount consideration for any returning customer. In the case of Hi Mate, the quality is ensured with the skills of chef JK.

The café/restaurant – formerly the ill-fated Gorge Café – offers a fusion of Korean and Western cuisine. A Hi Mate specialty is spinach bulgogi pasta, a Korean-inspired pasta dish of thinly sliced beef, in soy sauce, sugar, garlic and onion.

Bulgogi is a traditional Korean meal, but easy

to get wrong if the ingredients aren’t quite right – especially when adding pasta.

JK ensures it is right – he studied cooking at a university in South Korea, became a fully qualified chef and worked at top restaurants there before coming to New Zealand in 2016.

He was working as head chef at a Japanese restaurant in Wellington when he met Amy, who was an IT developer and had also recently arrived from Korea.

Together, they soon started thinking about a restaurant of their own.

“I’ve always been interested in cooking, and I’ve always wanted to start a business,” JK says.

With Amy having an older sister living in Paraparaumu, the couple started looking on the Kāpiti Coast, and found the restaurant space they were looking for on Riverbank Road.

That part of the dream has come true for them, along with the desire to live in a different country.

Amy says they both chose New Zealand because it has a more relaxed lifestyle than their home country. She likes how New Zealanders don’t take work structures too seriously – polite but not grovelling to senior managers.

And as for the name, Hi Mate?

“We thought about lots of names, and we heard people saying ‘Hi mate’, to their friends,” Amy says. “We wanted to show friendliness, so that’s how we came up with the name.”

■ *Hi Mate Café & Restaurant*
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HĪTŌRIA/History

Coach roads – old and new

As you cruise quietly and smoothly along the expressway, take a moment to think of the travellers from 1866 to 1886 who took the rugged journey between Paekākāriki and Foxton by horse-drawn coach.

Unlike Transmission Gully, where there’s barely a glimpse of the coastline, large sections of their route was the coastline, with the odd foray inland to an inn for rest and respite.

The most rugged sections of the journey involved the river crossings. Sometimes this was by ferry, when it wasn’t in the horses’ hearts to take the risk. Ferries in those days were really

OUR HERITAGE



NICKY TREADWELL

just largish row boats, and prone to depositing passengers into the river.

There are many remnants of old coach roads throughout the country. The name is ubiquitous, particularly in towns where infrastructure and new roads haven’t

yet replaced them. In Ōtaki we have two – Old Coach Road South and Old Coach Road North – although the directional differentiation isn’t always used.

These days the south road from the river is blocked from the original ford location over the river by stopbanks, but a track through farmland leads to the original road that joins

up to Rangiuru Road. The north road that runs from Convent Road stops abruptly at a block of forestry on private land, but would have once run to the beach close to the mouth of the Waitohu Stream.

This leg of the journey was formative for the town. Several of the early large buildings here were erected to house and water travellers and horses. Before construction of the railway, mail and goods were also on board the coaches.

The advent of the Wellington to Longburn railway in 1886 put paid to the hazardous coach journeys and further shaped the district. Other routes within the town emerged as more roads were constructed, streams diverted or bridged over.

So today the old coach roads in Ōtaki are dead ends, while other roads fulfil their original purpose of linking people and places, both within and out of town.

Buses now provide public transport across town and to other places in the Kāpiti district, with 13 bus stops between Paraparaumu and Ōtaki. Too bad, however, if you want to go to Levin, because there’s only one bus twice a week and it doesn’t go there and back the same day.

The bus journey between Paraparaumu and Ōtaki is easier these days, thanks to the expressway taking traffic off the old highway, which is the route now taken by the buses.



If you’re fortunate enough to own or rent a motorhome, then your journey and accommodation is sorted without having to resort to the remaining hostels the town still has. In fact, most large vehicles, including the buses, avoid the town centre as much as they can. Main Street isn’t very conducive to Winnebagos and the like, and it’s deliberately planned that way. Some intrepid or stupid drivers attempt it, but their GPS systems would recommend against it.

It’s so much easier to exit the expressway and whip down Riverbank Road onto Rangiuru Road to reach your beach destination. That destination is usually near the Ōtaki River mouth.

Kāpiti council signs inform those with mobile homes of the rules by which they must abide while sipping wine and watching our spectacular sunsets. The number of vehicles and duration of the stay are limited, and above all else, you must have your own toilet on board.

The council used to employ “ambassadors” to police the area for those who didn’t play by the rules. Those people weren’t actually police, so the purpose of their summertime jobs was probably, at times, a little pointless. Or revolting even. Visitors would sometimes use the areas of scrub as the restroom.

Recently the number of freedom campers has ballooned to upwards of 40 vehicles at any given time. And now central government has directed this district to nominate areas within each town for freedom campers. The council has proposed that up to 14 Winnebagos, house trucks and

dinged up vans will be camped in the main carpark at the beach – two of which don’t have to be self-contained. All a bit sad for the nearby residents (especially at Ocean View Rest Home) who will find their views of the sunset blocked by a row of mammoth vehicles.

But hey, tourism is good for everyone, according to the government.

And poor old Rangiuru Road, the route for travellers and their vehicles since the times of horse-drawn coaches, will continue to provide the speediest access for these modern coaches, just as it did for the old ones.

The trouble is that Rangiuru Road, unlike many of the other main thoroughfares in town, has received no attention for many years. The road surface has worn away where it meets Marine Parade, the futile speed humps are a joke, (the unintentional dips and potholes do better) while the number of vehicles has exploded. And will continue to explode.

Looking through the fascinating table of road classifications online, roads such as Rangiuru appear to sit outside any formal classification. The closest class is the “secondary collector” road, but this would not normally include buses. Or Winnebagos, gypsy caravans, house buses or motorhomes.

Perhaps Rangiuru Road could be renamed the New Coach Road. So much easier for the tourists to understand, after all.

■ Nicky is a former journalist and landscape architect. Having been in Otaki for only 17 years, she says she barely rates as a local, but sees it as home.



ŌTAKI HERITAGE
Te Whare Pouhere Taonga o Ōtaki

NEW EXHIBITION
OPENS SATURDAY
MAY 17

Mai i te Kāinga ki te Tāone
Iti – Wāhanga 1: 1843-1920

From Kāinga
to Village –
Part 1: 1843-1920



Our new exhibition covers the first 80 years of the development of Ōtaki Town. **ALL WELCOME!**

49 Main Street, Ōtaki • otakiheritage.org.nz
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Steam Incorporated and the Glenbrook Vintage Railway invite you to join in the celebrations of this milestone event in the heritage rail industry, and travel onboard a special weekend of excursion trains. In what is set to be the biggest mainline rail weekend in many years, immerse yourself in a special programme of train running, featuring a double-headed steam excursion to Ohakune, Ww 644's first excursions in the Manawatu in preservation, and a quartet of EMD diesels heading to Taumaranui!



ŌTAKI SCHOOL 1957 AND 1959

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 with additions or corrections to captions.

ŌTAKI SCHOOL, 1957 (another huge class of the times – 40 five-year-olds). No names provided.



ŌTAKI SCHOOL, 1959
Back row, from left: Paul Taylor, Wiremu Dawson, Ranier Johnson, Mario Belina, Wayne Hollings, Lucky Richards, Errol Burgron, Wayne Stuart.
Middle 3: Teacher Miss Grant, Micky Rikihana, Sylvanus Royal, Christy Lin Fireson, Jan Sharpe, Patricia Taylor, Alison Horn, Cherry Mason, Tom ?, Keith Hawea, Terry Whiteman, .
Front row: Claudette Yung, Linda Moore, Helen Russell, unknown, Felicity Tucker, Trena Brunning, Clare Potter, Jennifer Gordon, Ann Jones, Lynn Kendrick, Narlin Whiteman, Katherine Wilton.
Photos courtesy of Helen Russell.

from page 23 MAY
QUIZ ANSWERS:
1. Rome 2. Tanzania
3. True. 4. Mexico
City. 5. Sweden
(270,000). 6. An
off-license/liquor
store. 7. Africa.
8. Colorado River.
9. Venezuela.
10. Antarctica.

SUDOKU SOLUTION MED #56M
from page 23

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

History of the NZSO

From the Archives: New Zealand Symphony Orchestra is a collaboration between New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga Archives New Zealand and Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision.

The online exhibition documents the history of the NZSO through images, audio and film – many of which have not been seen or heard by the public for decades.



NGĀ TAONGA
SOUND & VISION
The Audiovisual Archive for Aotearoa

Some highlights from the Ngā Taonga collection include a recently digitised recording of the very first public concert of the National Orchestra, as it was then known, playing 'Carnival Overture' by Dvorak in March 1947; and a recording of famed conductor and composer Igor Stravinsky conducting the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra in 1961.

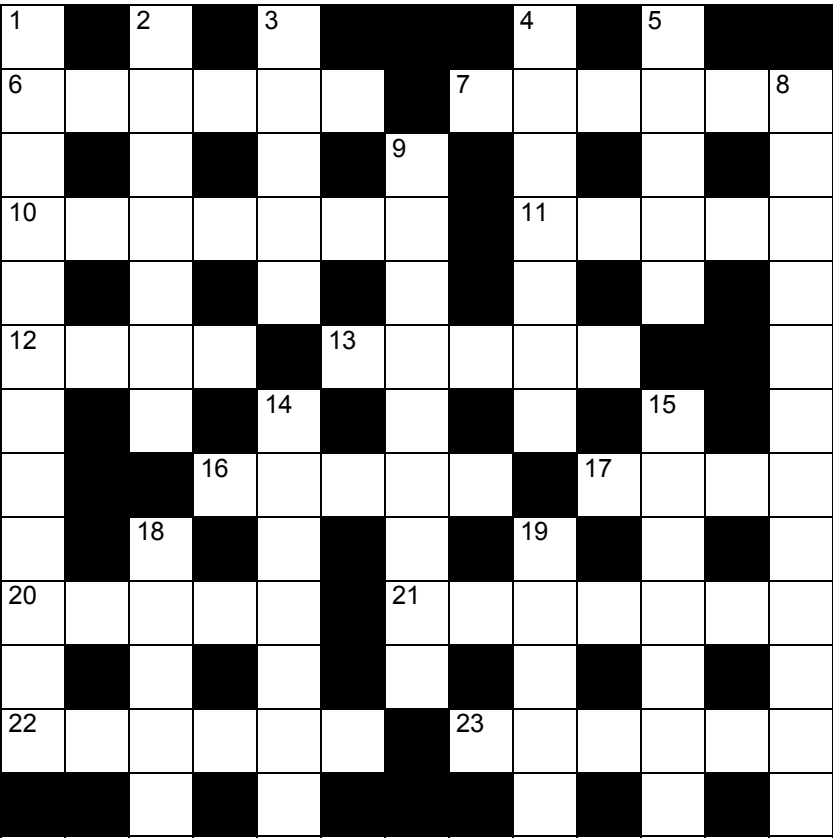
The concert performance audio recordings in this online exhibition are from the RNZ collection cared for by Ngā Taonga. Concert photographs are cared for by Archives New Zealand.

You can access the full exhibition here: bit.ly/3RLSDTb

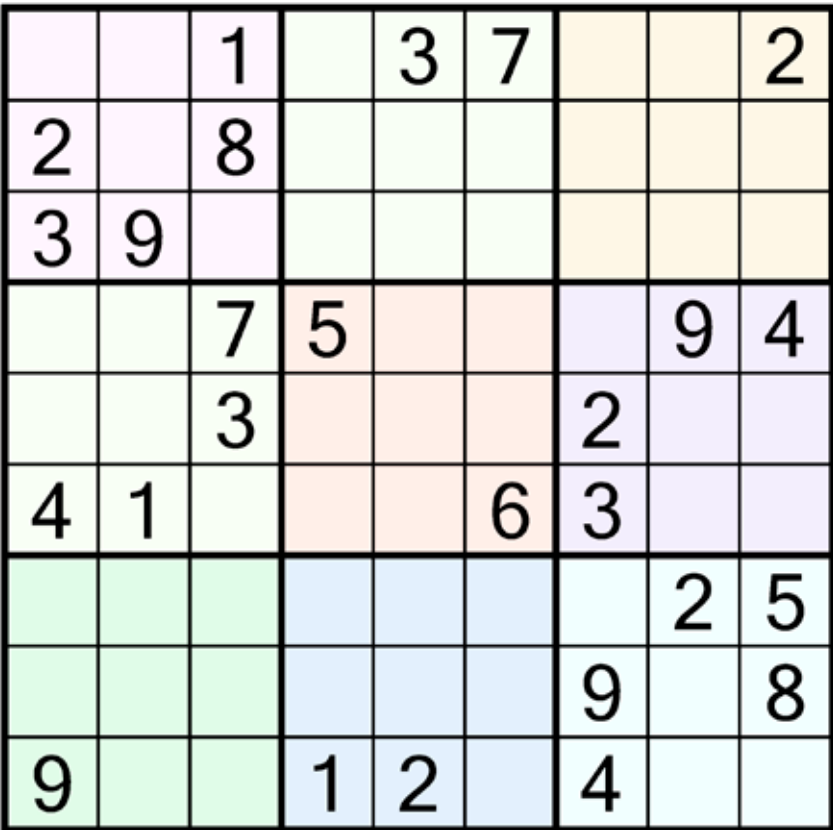
Wellington Inaugural Concert of the National Orchestra of New Zealand Broadcasting Service, Andersen Tyrer, Conductor and audience, Wellington Town Hall - 6 March 1947. Item Code: R26064254. Photo Archives New Zealand:



THE CROSSWORD #1913H (answers below right)



SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz
MEDIUM #56M 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 23.



CROSSWORD #1913H ACROSS: 6. Rueful 7. Euchre 10. Nonplus 11. Borer 12. Myth 13. Crook 16. Doily 17. Hoki 20. Irrate 21. Baptist 22. Nimbus 23. Solemn. **DOWN:** 1/3. Transmission Gully 2. Bennett 4. Gumboot 5. Chart 8. Earsplitting 9. Astrolabe 14. Foveaux 15. Conifer 18. Palmy 19. Spook.

- ACROSS
6. Expressing regret (6)

7. Card game (6)

10. Surprise and confuse (7)

11. Wood-eating beetle (5)

12. Ancient tale (4)

13. Dishonest person (colloq) (5)

16. Lacy mat (5)

17. NZ fish also called whiptail (4)

20. Hopping mad (5)

21. Religious denomination listed as NZ's sixth most numerous (7)

22. Rain-bearing cloud (6)

23. Serious (6)
- DOWN
- 1/3. Massive roading project north of Wellington (12,5)

2. George ____, New Zealand professional cyclist on the world tour (7)

3. See 1

4. Large corrugated iron sculpture in Taihape (7)

5. Map (5)

8. Deafening (12)

9. Reef off Tauranga which the *Rena* ran aground on in 2011 (9)

14. Strait north of Stewart Island (7)

15. Cone-bearing tree, common in NZ (7)

18. Nickname often used for NZ's eighth largest urban area (5)

19. Ghost (colloq) (5)



MAY GENERAL QUIZ

Answers on page 23.

1. Where would you be if you were standing on the Spanish Steps?

2. In which country would you find Mount Kilimanjaro?

3. True or false: Halloween originated as an ancient Irish festival.

4. What is the largest Spanish-speaking city in the world?

5. Which country has the most islands?

6. In Australia, what is commonly known as a bottle-o?

7. Which is the only continent with land in all four hemispheres?

8. Which river flows through the Grand Canyon?

9. Where is Angel Falls, the world's largest waterfall, located?

10. On which continent would you find the world's largest desert?



"Some complain because the rose has thorns. Some give thanks because the thorns have roses."

- Barbara Johnson -



A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

Proverbs 17:22

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TAMARIKI FUN



New Pope

On April 26, 2025, people from around the world came to Rome to honour Pope Francis, who passed away at the age of 88. During his time Pope Francis had worked to make the 1.4 billion-member Catholic Church more universal and to end its focus on Europe. During that time, he broke with previous customs regarding who in the world could become a cardinal and also the character of the College of Cardinals. To elect a new Bishop of Rome, aka the Pope, 133 cardinals moved into the Vatican's Sistine Chapel on May 7. Elections take place until a majority in favour of a single choice for the new pope occurs. Since 1914, black smoke emerging from a temporary chimney installed on the roof of the Sistine Chapel indicates the ballot did not result in an election. White smoke announces that a new pope has been chosen. The first American, Robert Francis Prevost, 69, has become the 267th occupant of the throne of St Peter and he will be known as Leo XIV. He is considered as much a cardinal from Latin America because of the many years he spent as a missionary in Peru.

JUST JOKING!

1. Q: What did the triangle say to the circle?
 2. Q: Why was six afraid of seven?
 3. Q: Why should you never argue with a 90-degree angle?
 4. Q: How do you make seven an even number?
- See answers below.

WORDMAKER

C A R D I N A L

Can you make 132 words from cardinal?

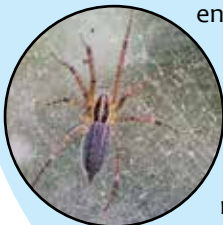


WINNER OF NAME THE POLICE PUPPIES IS KEREANA, AGED 7.

KEREANA LOVES PUPPIES AND THINKS THEY SHOULD BE NAMED CHASE, DAISY, AXEL, HESU, STEWIE, SCOUT, ROSY AND LUCY!

Spiders tune out noise

Researchers have discovered that spiders can block out noise from the world around them. A University of Nebraska-Lincoln study looked at how spiders respond to man-made noise, such as traffic or construction. Sixty Pennsylvanian funnel-web spiders, collected from both the city and the countryside, were placed in quiet and noisy environments to see how their webs reacted to sound. What they found was surprising. Spiders that lived in loud urban areas made webs that helped reduce vibrations – they could still hear the important sounds, like prey moving, while tuning out the noise pollution. Spiders from quieter places made webs that made all sounds louder, kind of like turning up the volume on a TV. IWI IWI



KCC
Kiwi Conservation Club - Hakuturi Toa

KIWI CONSERVATION CLUB reaches 10,000 kids throughout Aotearoa New Zealand. Join in the fun and help protect our wildlife and wild places. kcc.org.nz

Here's a fun activity for outdoors and indoors!

LEAF CREATIONS Share your mahi with KCC and they'll put it on their website.

AI to mark Yr 10 writing tests

Artificial intelligence (AI) will start marking Year 10 writing tests from May. New Zealand's Qualifications Authority (NZQA) told shared the decision during a meeting with the Education and Workforce Select Committee last week. Officials said the change would speed up marking and help students get their results faster. NZQA's chief executive Grant Klinkum, said a recent trial using AI to mark tests from 36,000 students showed an 80 percent agreement rate – similar to human markers. In the new system, AI will do the first round of marking, but human markers will double-check many tests, to make sure results are fair. Most NCEA credits last year came from internal assessments on assignments done during the year, rather than final exams. The human review of AI-marked tests will be important to make sure no student is treated unfairly. If a human marker disagrees with the AI's decision, the human's opinion will be final.



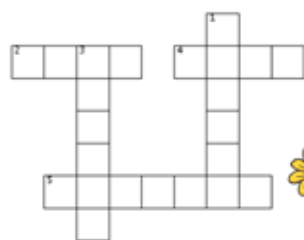
JUST JOKING ANSWERS

1. You're pointless.
2. Because seven, eight, nine.
3. They are always right.
4. Remove the S.



CADE'S

Belated Mothers Day crossword!



ACROSS

2. You give this to someone special
4. The bond between a child and mother
5. Little trees with petals

DOWN

1. The one who gave you birth
3. A connection of a group of people

Use the clues to fill in the words above.

Words can go across or down.
Letters are shared when the words intersect.

CARDINAL: WORD MAKER ANSWERS from above:

7-letter words: 1. radical 2. carinal 3. cranial 4. laniard 5. nadiral. **6-letter words:** 6. acarid 7. canard 8. cardia 9. rancid 10. acinar 11. arnica 12. carina 13. carlin 14. carnal 15. cranial 16. racial 17. aldrin 18. radial 19. radian 20. narial. **5-letter words:** 21. acrid 22. alcid 23. caird 24. canid 25. cnida 26. daric 27. nicad 28. acari 29. cairn 30. canal 31. craal 32. linac 33. naric 34. aland 35. dinar 36. drail 37. drain 38. laird 39. liard 40. lidar 41. nadir 42. naiad 43. nidai 44. ranid 45. laari 46. lanai 47. liana 48. naira. **4-letter words:** 49. acid 50. cadi 51. caid 52. card 53. clad 54. acai 55. cain 56. carl 57. carn 58. clan 59. cria 60. laic 61. narc 62. arid 63. darn 64. dial 65. dirl 66. laid 67. land 68. lard 69. nada 70. nard 71. raid 72. rand 73. rind 74. airn 75. alan 76. alar 77. anil 78. aria 79. aril 80. lain 81. lair 82. lari 83. larn 84. liar 85. lira 86. nail 87. nala 88. raia 89. rail 90. rain 91. rani 92. rial. **3-letter words:** 94. cad 95. arc 96. can 97. car 98. lac 99. aid 100. and 101. dal 102. dan 103. din 104. lad 105. lid 106. rad 107. rid 108. aal 109. ail 110. ain 111. air 112. ala 113. ana 114. ani 115. lan 116. lin 117. nil 118. rai 119. ran 120. ria 121. rin. **2-letter words:** 122. da 123. id 124. aa 125. ai 126. al 127. an 128. ar 129. in 130. la 131. li 132. na.

What can you make out of leaves?

Here's some ephemeral (found object) art by kids from Southland to inspire you!

© Bronwyn Graham

Show us your mahi! Email kcc@forestandbird.org.nz.

A lobster!

Ōtaki club of the year

Ōtaki Sports Club was announced joint club of the year at the Tennis Central annual awards in Wellington on May 10.

The club shared the award with Newlands-Paparangi Tennis Club and beat out 24 other Wellington and Kāpiti tennis clubs to get the win.

The win comes after the club was a three-time, short-listed finalist in the awards from 2022-2024. It also comes three years after Ōtaki Sports Club won the 2022 Sport Wellington Club of the Year for its achievements in tennis.

Tennis club captain Adam Shelton says the past season had been a memorable one for growth in tennis participation.

Tennis membership at the club has risen 40 percent in the past year, with junior members now numbering close to 100, and the club fielding 27 interclub teams from young beginners to experienced adults.

Adam says the club of the year judges were also impressed with the Ōtaki's consistently high membership growth over the past four years.

"It's exciting for tennis in Ōtaki that membership numbers have climbed heaps year-on-year for several years," he says. "A wide membership base opens up all sorts of opportunities for our members to play the game."

With the club now entering its winter season, tennis is still being played, and is now a 12-month sport in Ōtaki.

Next month, three senior teams and two junior teams begin their winter interclub season, playing every fortnight on Sundays. Junior and senior coaching is also under way, keeping players' skills up until the new season kicks off again in October.



Ōtaki Sports Club members, from left, Adam Shelton, Sonia Savage, Max Beauchamp, Tom Beauchamp and Scarlett Beauchamp with the Tennis Central club of the year trophy and prize pack. Photo Greg Moller



Ōtaki River entrance tides May 16 – June 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
FRI 16 MAY	-	05:54	12:02	18:11	-	
SAT 17 MAY	00:20	06:37	12:45	18:53	-	
SUN 18 MAY	01:03	07:25	13:34	19:39	-	
MON 19 MAY	01:55	08:19	14:30	20:34	-	
TUE 20 MAY	02:54	09:18	15:31	21:35	-	
WED 21 MAY	03:58	10:20	16:34	22:41	-	
THU 22 MAY	05:02	11:21	17:38	23:46	-	
FRI 23 MAY	06:02	12:19	18:38	-	-	
SAT 24 MAY	-	00:47	06:58	13:16	19:35	
SUN 25 MAY	-	01:44	07:52	14:10	20:29	
MON 26 MAY	-	02:37	08:45	15:02	21:20	
TUE 27 MAY	-	03:29	09:37	15:53	22:10	
WED 28 MAY	-	04:20	10:30	16:43	23:00	
THU 29 MAY	-	05:11	11:22	17:33	23:49	
FRI 30 MAY	-	06:03	12:15	18:22	-	
SAT 31 MAY	00:40	06:56	13:08	19:11	-	
SUN 1 JUN	01:32	07:50	14:02	20:03	-	
MON 2 JUN	02:27	08:45	14:56	20:58	-	
TUE 3 JUN	03:24	09:41	15:53	21:56	-	
WED 4 JUN	04:22	10:37	16:51	22:58	-	
THU 5 JUN	05:18	11:32	17:48	23:59	-	
FRI 6 JUN	06:11	12:25	18:43	-	-	
SAT 7 JUN	-	00:54	07:00	13:14	19:32	
SUN 8 JUN	-	01:42	07:46	14:00	20:17	
MON 9 JUN	-	02:25	08:28	14:43	20:58	
TUE 10 JUN	-	03:06	09:09	15:23	21:36	
WED 11 JUN	-	03:44	09:50	16:02	22:14	

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