

ŌTAKI TODAY

otakitoday.com

ĀKUHATA/AUGUST 2025

Ngā kōrero o Ōtaki

OTAKI DOMINATES AWARDS

PAGE 3



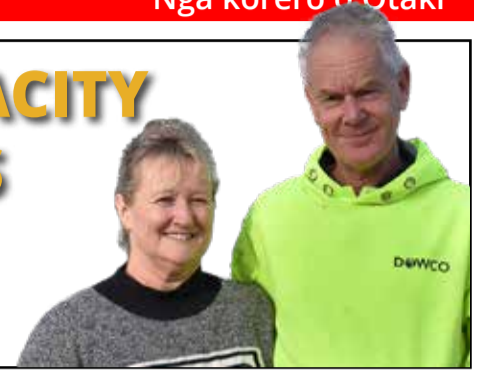
LET THE RACE BEGIN

PAGE 5



TENACITY PAYS OFF

PAGE 23



Sam risks all for Gaza

By Ian Carson

Sam Leason is passionate enough about the desperate plight of Gaza that he's put his own life on the line to support its people.

The Ōtaki man and friend Coë Rochford were on an OE in Europe when they heard about the Global March to Gaza. It was to be an international march from Cairo to the Gaza border. They were in Morocco and immediately decided to go to Egypt to join about 6000 marchers, including several others from New Zealand.

"I had plans to go to a very cool festival in Morocco but I was sitting in my room scrolling Instagram and stuff, seeing all the terrible things going on in Gaza," he says. "Back in New Zealand I was horrified and felt there was nothing I could do, but promised myself that if I could at some time, I would.

"What Israel is doing to Gaza is a clear campaign of extermination," Sam told *Ōtaki Today* from his latest base in the Isle of Skye, Scotland.

The Gaza Health Ministry estimates at least

60,000 people have died since October 2003, when Israel retaliated for an attack that killed about 1200 of its citizens.

Sam wanted to bring more awareness of what's happening in Gaza, hoping that even bigger marches would happen.

Not everyone intending to march got into Cairo. Many, especially from other Arab countries, were stopped at the border and refused entry.

Others, like Sam and Coë, were from Western countries and were treated with more respect. He counts himself lucky that he and Coë arrived at an airport eight hours out of Cairo and were able to catch a bus to the Egyptian capital

It was soon apparent that the march would be thwarted by Egyptian authorities. What Sam calls "gangs of thugs" started snatching people off the street and from coffee bars. Sam says

there was talk of many being tortured before being deported.

There were still many who were able to start the 400km march to Rafah, a Palestinian border city. But at three checkpoints not far out of Cairo, more and more people were detained. Most had their passports taken, so they wouldn't have been able to enter Rafah. Some alleged organisers were beaten and taken to undisclosed locations before being deported.

"We weren't really that scared but other people were," Sam says. "I think the fact that we were from a country like Zealand and we had white skin. Others who didn't have that white privilege were treated terribly compared to us.

"They were basically blockaded in with no food or water."

He says the regular police were relatively friendly, but the "government-hired thugs" were dangerous.

Sam and Coë got as far as the third checkpoint, with the help of a friendly taxi driver. But they, too, had their passports taken. They were "pushed and shoved a bit", but saw much worse violence inflicted on other marchers.

"We saw a lot of people bleeding, and super scared. They would just get chucked into a bus with no idea where they were going. Some didn't even get to take their luggage with them."

Eventually the two were able to retrieve

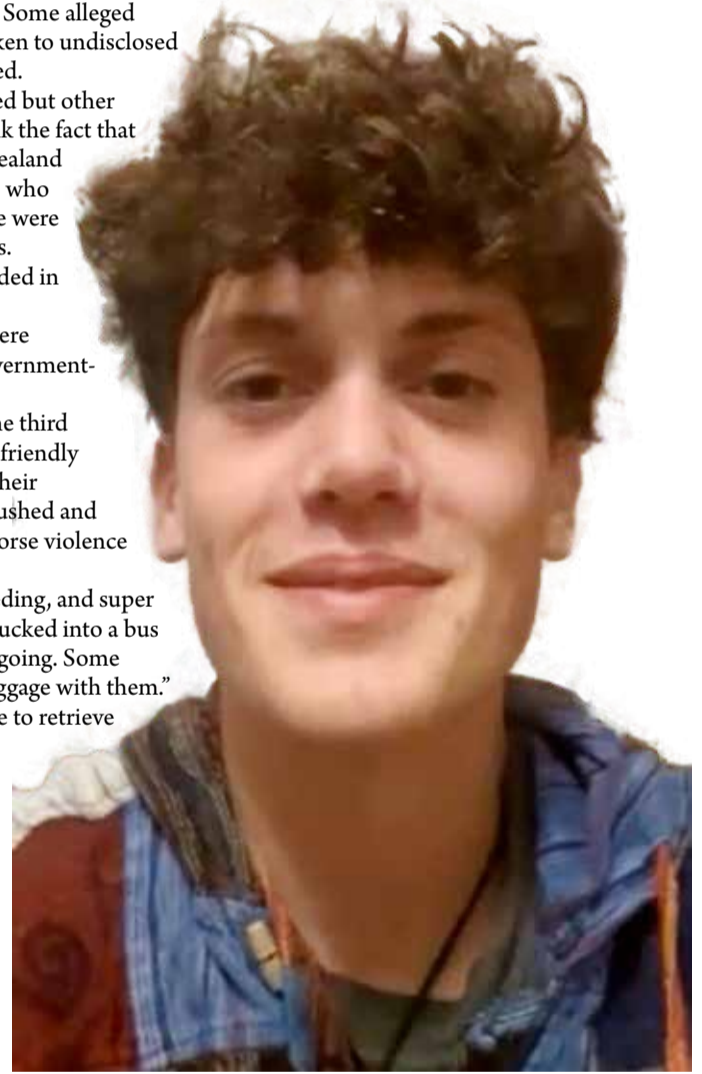
their passports at the first checkpoint after authorities threw the passports on the ground. Passport holders had to scramble looking for theirs, and Sam and Coë managed to get out of Egypt unharmed.

continues page 4



Sam Leason, right, and at left, he is second right, back row with others in the New Zealand delegation for the Global March to Gaza.

Images courtesy of Sam Leason



Travel THE WORLD
Explore THE UNKNOWN

Embark on a transformative journey and explore the allure of diverse cultures, landscapes, and people.

ASIA EUROPE AMERICA

ŌTAKI'S LEADING TRAVEL AGENT

TRAVELSTNZ
Main Highway, Ōtaki
Ph: 021745903
www.travelstnz.com

HARRISON'S GARDENWORLD

23 Peka Peka Road
Peka Peka • Waikanae
04 293 5437
harrisons.co.nz

It's potato planting season, certified seed potatoes that will be ready for the Christmas table are here now ... along with all the advice to help you get a top crop.

Harrison's Gardenworld owner Lance Bills.

WHAT'S ON

COMMUNITY BOARD The last Ōtaki Community Board has its last meeting of this council term at 7pm on Tuesday September 2. The Waikanae Community Board meets at 6.30pm on Tuesday, September 2, at Te Horo Hall. 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

TE HORO GARDEN TRAIL Te Horo gardens open on November 15 and 16. Also a garden-inspired market, café and information hub in Te Horo Hall. Tickets on sale in early September for \$35, online at tehorohall.org.nz or at garden centres. See page 10.

KĀPITI COAST ART TRAIL Weekends of November 1-2 and 8-9, throughout the Kāpiti Coast. From humble beginnings in 2001 with just 26 venues, the 25th Trail now boasts 140 artists, shaping up to be our biggest yet. See kapiticoastarttrail.nz

KĀPITI HOROWHENUA HOMEOPATHY FOR CHILDREN Offering a holistic option in natural healthcare for families. Available for children under 12 years. Saturday clinics in Paraparaumu. Koha appreciated. Contact: kapitihomeopathyforchildren@gmail.com

WANT HELP DISCOVERING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY? Join Ōtaki Family History Inc. for monthly group meetings, 7.30pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month (Feb to Nov), at the Dr Gertrude Atmore Supper Room, Memorial Hall, Main St, Ōtaki.

ŌTAKI MUSEUM 49 Main St. 06 364-6886. *Mai i te Kāinga Tāone Iti – Wāhanga 1: 1843-1920 (From Kāinga to Village – Part 1: 1843-1920).* This is 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.

ŌTAKI BUZZ CLUB meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm. Venue: Waitohu School hall, Te Manuao Road, Ōtaki. Come along if you're interested in beekeeping.

ŌTAKI MARKET 58 Main Highway, Ōtaki. Open every fortnight in winter. 10am-2pm.

TOI MATARAU GALLERY Māoriland 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.

TOI MAHARA Mahara Place, Waikanae. The Kāpiti Coast's public art gallery.

POETRY IN ŌTAKI Third Friday of each month, 10.30-11.30am, Library Supper Room, Aotaki St. All welcome. Call 021 050 1904 for details.

ŌTAKI GARAGE SALE: Third Saturday of the month, 9am-11.30am, Presbyterian Church, 249 Mill Rd. 06 364-6449. Rev Peter Jackson 021 207 9455, owpresb@xtra.co.nz

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.

WAIKANA BEACH INDOOR MARKET: Second Sunday of the month, 10am-1pm, at the Waikanae Beach Community Hall, 22 Rauparaha St, Waikanae Beach.

WAIKANA TOASTMASTERS: Meetings 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month, 7.30pm, Waikanae Arts and Crafts Rooms 27 Elizabeth St, Waikanae. Contact Neil at 0274 417 229.

PROBUS CLUB OF WAIKANA CENTRAL. Meet at 10am 4th Thursday of the month at the Waikanae Community Centre, Utauta Street behind the Waikanae Memorial Hall. New members welcome. If you would like to join us please contact Roger Faithfull: probuswaikanaecentral@gmail.com
To list an event, contact debbi@idmedia.co.nz

Elder care a focus for major parties

The use of hospital care for elderly people capable of discharge but having nowhere to go with suitable care for their frailty is becoming a major political issue to which National, Labour and NZ First will be devoting a good deal of time before next year's election.

Recent disclosure of senior citizens being held at North Shore Hospital because authorities had no home to which they could be sent following treatment, placed the issue squarely into a "needs to be dealt with" category of the major parties.

It is, however, one that has been for several months on the issues radar of groups holding community oversight over the aged sector. Visitors to the top floor of Keneperu Hospital will be familiar with the situation.

Grey Power, Aged Concern, the Aged Care Association, and the Retirement Villages Association are all on the case, with Retirement Commissioner Jane Wrightson involved in discussion. To date there seems no clear solution, but a variety of prospective ideas are coming before ministers and MPs.

These include increased use of vacant retirement home spaces by the public health system, and separating operational activities into active retirement, health oversight, and nursing care. The middle of these options would probably apply to those referred to at North Shore.

Vacant retirement home spaces include those units available when owners have either moved into rest home care or died and await sale of the premises. Use for short terms between initial availability and subsequent occupancy by a new

owner might fit especially well with respite care requirements. Often need of accommodation is only for a few weeks to provide a care-giver with break-time from daily responsibility.

More than 50,000 people are in retirement villages throughout the country and with superannuitant numbers exceeding 840,000, the potential influences the aged sector can wield is highly significant. It has proved faithful to

National over the past two decades in spite of inroads made into the over 60s vote by Winston Peters for NZ First.

Legendary tales of calls by elderly community leaders at Waikanae station during elections in the John Key era that "Winny's Mob" with gold cards should get into carriage X during after 9am travel to Wellington ginged up National's approach to issues of the 60+ community.

That its national conference in Christchurch at the start of this month featured lengthy discussion on ageing well and housing was effectively recognition of this issue, and the growing needs of the homeless apparent in the country's urban streets.

It is not that Labour lacks attention to the area. Its close links with Grey Power served it well, especially during the years of Helen Clark as prime minister. But the growth of academic influence over the course of policy settings, and the apparent fixation of Grant Robertson and David Parker with tax reform – especially inheritance and wealth taxes – saw it lose support across the wider elderly sector in the later Ardern years.

The scramble among these three parties for policies of appeal to the aged next year will add spice to campaigning. While temptation exists to focus more strongly on how the so-called

youth vote will respond to policies, election night figures have shown for decades that the outcome of voting among the 60+ is more crucial to election success.

Debate on the age of superannuation entitlement and future financing of the state scheme will win headlines. But it is the question of care in old age, especially when health conditions are evident, that holds more attention as a "bread and butter, day by day" issue among the 65+.

The Retirement Villages Association says it is the only industry building modern care facilities for older New Zealanders. It says the country has more than 460 registered retirement villages. Among these, 65 percent have a care facility on site. Village residents who are assessed as needing care can receive home-based support in most of them.

Would-be village residents can accept a licence to occupy, buy, or own a unit as a member of a body corporate, or lease a unit. For many superannuitants, however, financing entry through these options is a problem, as is access to the rest home/nursing care facilities that a majority of the villages have.

A problem identified by community groups is that hospitals looking to utilise the rest home/nursing care facilities to place a recuperating, but care-dependent patient frequently find no places available because village residents expect priority entry. It gave rise to the suggestion that placement might be better overseen were residential occupation to be separated administratively from rest home management.

Cabinet ministers, MPs and party machines have a wide range of potential solutions to canvas before next year's election day.

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

POLITICS



BRUCE KOHN

CARTOON OF THE MONTH

By Jared Carson

ŌTAKI TODAY *Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki*

Ōtaki Today is published monthly by ID Media Ltd, 13 Te Manuao Rd, Ōtaki.

EDITOR: Ian Carson.

For editorial enquiries or news tips, please contact Ian at 027 2411 090, or email ian@idmedia.co.nz

GENERAL MANAGER: Debbi Carson.

For advertising enquiries, call Debbi on 027 285 4720, or email debbi@idmedia.co.nz

DESIGN by ID Media Ltd.

PRINTED by Beacon Print, Whakātane.

CONTRIBUTORS:

SIMON BLACK (Ōtaki Community) • CAM BUTLER (Cam's Corner) • FRASER CARSON (Just a Thought) • CADE CARSON (Kids' puzzle) • TIM COSTLEY (The Electorate) • JOANNE HAKARAIA (Rongoā) • STEVE HUMPHRIES (Science) • KATH IRVINE (Edible Backyards) • BRUCE KOHN (Politics) • DAVID LEDSON / NICKY TREADWELL (Historical) • MICHAEL MOORE (Te Horo) • CHRIS WHELAN (Your Business).

Ōtaki Today online: otakitoday.com

ISSUE 86: ISSN 2624-3067

ONLINE: ISSN 2744-354X

Copy and advertising deadlines: First Tuesday of the month.

Delivery: If you don't receive your copy of Ōtaki Today, please contact us.

Ōtaki Today is a member of the NZ Community Newspapers Association





Above: John Barrett, with whānau, receives his 2025 Mayoral Award, at left are Mayor Janet Holborow and Deputy Mayor Lawrence Kirby.



Left: Max Lutz and Carla Heppelthwaite accept a Taonga Maumahara posthumous award on behalf of their late father, Carl. Photos Jack Penman

Ōtaki dominates awards

Māoriland Charitable Trust is the supreme winner in the Kāpiti section of the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards.

The trust that runs the internationally famous Māoriland Film Festival won the arts and culture category before taking the top award.

The popular Ōtaki Kids Market won the education and child/youth development category.

Ōtaki individuals and benefactors were also prominent as the awards were handed out on Thursday, August 7 at Te Raukura ki Kāpiti. The event honoured local heroes with the 2025 Kāpiti Good Sorts and Mayoral Awards, and the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards for Kāpiti recognised outstanding community groups.

Ōtaki's John Barrett won the Mayoral Award for 2025 in recognition of his decades-long

efforts to protect and promote Kāpiti Island and his global leadership in indigenous, community and nature-based tourism.

A Taonga Maumahara Award was presented posthumously to the whānau of Carl Lutz, who farmed for decades by the upper reaches of Ōtaki River. He was instrumental in work to manage the river, and had many other philanthropic interests.

"Carl Lutz was a tireless volunteer and conservationist and has left a lasting impact through his environmental leadership and advocacy for sustainable farming practices," Mayor Janet Holborow said.

Karl Farrell of Paekākāriki received the same award.

"Karl Farrell was the proud kaumātua of the Paekākāriki village and brought his mana and wairua to countless community projects and events. Both Karl and Carl deeply enriched our lives. It is an honour to acknowledge their enduring legacies," Janet said.

The mayoral Rangatahi Award went to Santino Morehu-Smith, a powerful young voice for climate action and youth engagement. *continues page 4*

Libby Hakaraia holds the Supreme award won by Māoriland Charitable Trust.



BULSARA T/A TALL POPPY LICENSED UNDER REAA 2008



Brendon & Jayden are leading the change for real estate in Ōtaki.

With extensive local knowledge in both sales and building trades, you and your home are in safe hands.

Book a free appraisal with us today!



Brendon Heenan
027 479 2772
 brendon.heenan@tallpoppy.co.nz

Jayden Matthews
021 053 7533
 jayden.matthews@tallpoppy.co.nz



BRIEFS

Storytellers gather

About 250 people from a cross-section of the community attended a delightful literary event on Sunday (August 10) at the Ōtaki Memorial Hall. As part of the recent and inaugural residential programme for storytellers – Kia rereke te hua / In Other Words Otaki (IOWO) – invitations were given to community groups including volunteers, schools and kura, the Wānanga as well as the many sponsors for the programme. Appropriately, the function was as bi-cultural as this town. Opened with local dignitaries through oratories and karakia, comedian and writer Michèle A’Court then took the reins as MC. While she introduced the storytellers, the attendees were provided with a hangi, organised and catered by locals, as the storytellers read from their own works. The selection of story tellers were as varied as their genres and included writers for children and young adults as well as adults, poets, illustrators and social commentators.

Brigade attends to 23 call-outs

A total of 23 call-outs were made to the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade in July. The damper weather also dampened the number of rubbish, grass or scrub fires to zero, but there were seven calls to attend private fire alarms. The brigade also attended six medical emergencies, four motor vehicle crashes, and four were “special service” (including two animal rescues. There was one property fire and one “good intent” call.

House prices down

The average house price in Ōtaki in July was \$615,000, a decrease of 1.9% in the past 12 months, according to homes.co.nz



Ōtaki dominates

Ōtaki fire chief Ian King with his Kāpiti Good Sorts award. Both he and Ōtaki’s Brent Bythell were recipients of Good Sorts awards, along with firefighters from the Waikanae and Paekākāriki brigades.

from page 3

Santino’s leadership through the Kāpiti Enviro Youth Summit and Kāpiti Strike for Climate continues to inspire the next generation. Ōtaki fire service heroes Ian King and Brent Bythell were among this year’s Kāpiti Good Sorts recipients, along with firefighters Sarah Sundgren of Waikanae and Ash Richardson of Paekākāriki. Other recipients were Lyn Parkin-Williams, Wayne Pidduck, Malcolm Bird and Darrell Smith.

They were all recognised for their outstanding contributions – from long-standing service and leadership to hands-on community support.

Janet said the awards shone a light on those who led with generosity, kindness, and an unwavering commitment to others.

“They are the heart of our community and it’s an incredibly humbling to hear their stories and present these awards.”

Commenting on the grassroots excellence recognised by the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards, airport chief executive Matt Clarke said the awards were a valuable way to acknowledge the impact of volunteer efforts.

“These groups deserve recognition for the amazing and selfless work they do in the community,” he said.

Finalists from the regional community awards go on to represent Kāpiti at the Wellington-wide finals later this year.

The August 7 event was hosted by the Kāpiti Coast District Council in partnership with Wellington Airport.

Sam risks all for Gaza

from front page

Sam says he found the Egyptian population supportive of what they were trying to do, and horrified at the treatment of Palestinians by Israel.

“It’s only the Egyptian government that supports Israel – the people of Egypt are very supportive. I’ve heard that some have been trying to float water bottles and food over to Gaza. The poor people there are in a desperate situation.”

Sam’s resolve to raise awareness of the situation hasn’t diminished. He’s watching closely international plans for an aid flotilla to Gaza in September, and has joined a New Zealand delegation.

While he’s been encouraged by the moves of some countries, including France which has pledged to recognise Palestine as a state in September, he’s less enthusiastic about New Zealand’s stance.

“New Zealand has done jack all to help the Palestinians,” he says. “Our government needs to strongly condemn Israel and actually do something to try and stop the killing.”

YOUR Travel[®]
Your Holiday - Your Way

NEED HOLIDAY INSPIRATION?

Let us be your inspiration!

Come and meet our team at Paraparaumu Beach. Whether searching for adventure or relaxation, we can help... 04 297 1392

Our locally owned, family-run business has been creating hosted tours and custom holidays for over 18 years.



SAFARI HOLIDAYS



OCEAN CRUISING



TRAIN JOURNEYS



CYCLING / WALKING



ANCIENT LANDS



RIVER CRUISING



ADVENTURE



EXOTIC DISCOVERIES



BEACH BREAKS



BARGE & CANALS

Plenty of choice in race for council votes

By Ian Carson

The names are in and the race has begun for candidates in the October local body elections.

Any concern about a lack of candidates locally has been dispelled, with five vying for the single Ōtaki Ward role and seven putting their hand up for the four positions on the Ōtaki Community Board.

Elsewhere, six want to be mayor, nine are seeking one of the two district-wide roles, and six are contesting the single Māori Ward seat. There are nine nominations for the two Waikanae Ward seats, and six for the four Waikanae Community Board seats.

Meanwhile, incumbent Penny Gaylor has one rival, Sam Ferguson, for the Kāpiti seat at Greater Wellington Regional Council. Penny has been a two-term regional councillor; Sam has been a councillor for Horizons Regional Council – north of the Wellington region – for the past three years, recently moving to Kāpiti.

A wildcard among the other four well-known candidates for the Ōtaki Ward seat is Brent Frogley, who is part of the We Love Kāpiti group. Others are: Heniti Buick, chief executive of Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki; Ōtaki Community Board chair and canoe polo coach Cam Butler; current district-wide councillor and architect Rob Kofoed; and incumbent Shelly Warwick. At the last election, in 2022, only Chris Papps and Shelly Warwick contested the seat.

All the incumbents are seeking another



Ōtaki Today urges all eligible voters to have their say by voting in the October elections. Your vote will determine who will represent us over the next three years. Make sure you're enrolled and make it count – make sure you vote!

term on the Ōtaki Community Board – Simon Black, Cam Butler (also seeking a role as Ōtaki Ward councillor), Jackie Elliott (also seeking a district-wide seat) and Chris Papps.

They are joined in the race by two relative unknowns – Sherril Moody and Rhyna Taratoa. But in the mix also is real estate agent Angela Buswell, who took time out from politics in this last term after serving as a district-wide councillor.

Seats at the Waikanae Community Board are being contested by Tonchi Begovich, Peter Bollmann, Phil Byrne, Richard Mansell, John McCormick and current chair Michael Moore.

Nine are seeking one of the two Waikanae Ward seats – Peter Bollmann, Steven Botica, Phil Byrne, Martin Frauenstein, Dean Harris, Chris Maclean, and Michael Moore – along with incumbents Jocelyn Prvanov and Nigel Wilson.

Five other candidates want to take the mayoralty from Janet Holborow, who is standing again. They include current councillors Martin Halliday and Liz Koh. Back in the frame is Rob McCann, who ran a close second in the mayoral race in 2022. The other two are Dean Harris of We Love Kāpiti and independent Kim Hobson.

The contest for the Māori seat at the council table will be an interesting one, with Ōtaki's Deanna Rudd seeking the job. Deanna is well known in Ōtaki and the wider community as an iwi engagement specialist.

Deanna will be up against Himiona Grace of Te Pati Māori, independent Rangi Halbert, Brian Ruawai-Hamilton of We Love Kāpiti, the Paraparaumu Māori Committee's Jason Thurston, and Jordon Wansbrough.

The nine vying for the two district-wide councillor roles are: Grant Bartlett, Jackie Elliott, current deputy mayor Lawrence Kirby, current councillor Liz Koh, Rob McCann, Jo Turner, Joanne Welch, Gavin Welsh, and Marek Willis.

VOTE 2025

LOCAL ELECTIONS

TIMELINE

September 9-22
Voting documents delivered

October 7
Last day for posting vote by mail. After this date votes must be returned to your council's secure ballot boxes.

12 noon October 11
Election day
Voting closes

From 12 noon October 11
Progress results

October 16-22
Declaration of results

October/November
Elected members' swearing in ceremonies

We are 4!

4 years, hundreds of keys, thousands of smiles.

Behind every sold sign is a story.

Thanks for letting us be a part of yours!



Ōtaki wastewater upgrade reaches roundabouts

The wastewater upgrade is nearing completion but before we reach the finish line, we have to lay the pipe across two roundabouts – on Aotaki Street and across the old state highway.

Aotaki Street/Mill Road roundabout

Work will reach this spot in mid-August. The pipe from Aotaki Street will be connected to the pipe already laid on Mill Road. A pipe will also be installed across the roundabout and approximately 50 metres along the northern side of Aotaki Street.

This section of work is expected to take four weeks and will include two main site lay outs, with

supporting traffic management. The south arm of the roundabout will be closed for up to two weeks. Then the east arm of the roundabout will be closed to enable the installation of a manhole.

Detours will be in place, and these will change as the work progresses. There will be temporary changes to bus stop locations.



Mill Road/old state highway roundabout closes Rahui Road for up to four weeks



In mid-September, the wastewater pipe will reach the old state highway. It travels from Mill Road across the roundabout and along Rahui Road to a new manhole. We estimate it'll take four weeks for the pipe to cross the roundabout. We'll also rebuild the roundabout with new kerbs and road markings.

The last manhole of the job is located in the middle of Rahui Road to a depth of more than five metres. We need to close Rahui Road for up to four weeks to install this manhole. Traffic management, including detours will be in place during these works.

We apologise for the disruption these works will cause. We are very appreciative of our community's ongoing patience and cooperation as we work to improve the capacity and resilience of our wastewater network.

kapiticoast.govt.nz/WastewaterGravityMain

River's friends celebrate 25 years

The Friends of the Ōtaki River (Fotor) has celebrated a remarkable milestone – 25 years of volunteer dedication to flood protection, environmental restoration, and community projects.

At a celebration function on July 23, chair Max Lutz outlined some of its history, praising the efforts of hundreds of local volunteers who have helped transform the life along the riverbanks.

Formed in 2000 under the guidance of founding chair Don Hunn, with deputy Kerry Hoggard, secretary Lenore Winterburn and a small group of locals, Fotor began as a consultative group for the Ōtaki Flood Mitigation Plan. This 100-year flood protection strategy developed after years of planning and consultation, Max said

It was born out of frustration in the 1990s, when poor or non-existent stopbanks put the town at risk and stalled local development.

Fotor's early brief was simple: monitor the plan's progress, hold an AGM, take part in annual river walkovers, and carry out environmental enhancement projects. Among the inaugural members were Eric Matthews, Ron Clouston, Graham and Lenore Winterburn, and Barry Mansell. The group quickly became known for rolling up their sleeves.

Environmental planting began under the late Barrie Bayston and Eric Matthews, with council funding. Eric also secured a \$30,000 grant to develop the Ōtaki estuary. From there, Fotor's ambitions grew.

By the early 2000s, the group had established a nursery – now extended five



Max Lutz delivers a speech at the 25th anniversary celebration for the Friends of the Ōtaki River. Max has been chair of most of those years.
Photo Ōtaki Today

times and producing about 7000 plants annually under nursery manager Denis Crone.

Partnerships proved key to Fotor's success. Working with then Greater Wellington councillor Chris Turver, Winstone Aggregates and others, the group opened the 4km walkway from the highway to the sea, then the 2km Chrystalls Bend walkway. In 2008, it celebrated the completion of three major projects – the walkways, a new Transpower-funded bridge over the Waimanu Stream, and a 100-year stopbank – along with the planting of 1000 trees.

Funding wins continued, including \$130,000 from the Ministry for the Environment to employ staff to support the volunteers' growing planting programme. Membership drives under then-secretary Trevor Wylie boosted manpower,

enabling annual plantings of 5000–7000 trees and further infrastructure like picnic tables, park benches, boardwalks, viewing platforms, and two public toilets.

More than 150,000 trees have now been planted along the Ōtaki River, creating a vibrant recreational space within a robust flood protection scheme.

Fotor's Wednesday morning volunteer crew remains the group's heartbeat, "On behalf of the Fotor executive I would like to thank each and every one of you for the huge contribution you have made to get Fotor to this point, celebrating the milestone of 25 years and the creation of this wonderful recreational paradise within a robust and well managed flood protection scheme," Max said.

LETTER

In praise of Friends

Have you walked or cycled along the northern bank of the Ōtaki River in recent years? Especially the walkway section from the new expressway bridge to Chrystalls Bend. If not, you're missing out on one of the loveliest river experiences in New Zealand. This year is the 25th birthday of Friends of the Ōtaki River (Fotor). This was a truly local vision and I am so grateful for the foresight of folk who decided at the inception to replant native trees along the banks of the Ōtaki awa. Walking towards the Tararuas, alongside one of the cleanest rivers in New Zealand, and in the shade of Fotor's native plantings engenders a sense of wonder and gratitude for the vision that has now become a reality. As with many other locals, the river was my family's playground for decades. So it has been a special feature of the planting programme that Fotor has involved local families, schools and businesses to sponsor many of the plantings. Take a bow, all of the local Fotor community, who by a loving and continual effort, big or small, have enhanced a wonderful river setting. Over the next 25 years a large part of the planting will mature, which will add native birdsong to the maunga, awa and native bush experience. Ngā mihi ki ngā tangata o Fotor.

Ron Gibbard

Tim Costley MP for Ōtaki



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

Levin Office Hours

Corner of Bath and Oxford Street

Phone: 020 438 8462

horowhenua@parliament.govt.nz

Opening Hours:

Mon: 10am - 3pm

Tues: Closed

Wed: 10am - 3pm

Thurs: 10am - 3pm

Fri: 10am - 3pm

Paraparaumu Office Hours

Corner of Te Roto Drive and Kāpiti Road

Phone: 021 851 206

kapiti@parliament.govt.nz

Opening Hours:

Mon: 10am - 3pm

Tues: 10am - 3pm

Wed: Closed

Thurs: 10am - 2pm

Fri: 10am - 3pm

*Outside these hours by appointment.

✉ Tim.CostleyMP@parliament.govt.nz

I look forward to meeting with you soon.



John Bertrand Collectables Are Buying in Otaki & Kapiti Coast 21st and 22nd August

Once again, the gold and collectables buyers from Wellington company John Bertrand Collectables are visiting Otaki and Kapiti Coast on 21st and 22nd August. Mr Tony Grant from the company says, "If you are downsizing or wanting to dispose of things because they no longer serve any purpose to you or your family bring them in". "21st and 22nd August will be a great opportunity to have any items you want to sell assessed by our buyers" said Mr Grant. Particularly wanted are Gold and Silver (in any of its forms) and Collectables such as Coins, Banknotes, War Medals, Old Wind-up Watches and other interesting Small Collectables.

"We are keen buyers, especially of the items in the list below" said Mr Grant. "Nothing is too small for our consideration. We are just as happy buying 1 item as we are buying 1,000 items" he said. The buyers will be in Otaki and Kapiti Coast on 21st and 22nd August (see details below). As Tony Grant points out "If you are in doubt about any items you may wish to sell, bring them along for an instant appraisal."



Mr Anthony (Tony) W. Grant

Fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand Incorporated
Director and Buyer
John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd
Author of the John Bertrand NZ Coin & Banknote Catalogue

Gold & Silver At Near Record Prices

During these uncertain times we have seen a sharp increase in the price of precious metals. The gold price in New Zealand is at near record levels so gather up all your unwanted items and take them along to the buyers. Tony Grant says "We can buy old gold items in all forms, including Jewellery (Rings, Chains, Brooches etc), Coins (Sovereigns and the like), Alluvial (River Gold), virtually anything, even Gold Teeth! We also need all Sterling Silver including Cups, Tea Services, Cutlery and Old Coins" he said.



Interesting Small Collectables Wanted

The buyers from John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd, visiting Otaki and Kapiti Coast on 21st and 22nd August are happy to look at any interesting items, for example vintage pocket and wristwatches such as Rolex, Men's Omega, Breitling and gold watches etc. Also wanted, pre 1950's picture postcards, Maori and Pacific artefacts, old fountain pens and other small antique or historical items.

"If you have something unusual which you would like to sell, please bring it into one of our venues, we would like the chance to at least have a look at it" said Tony Grant, buyer for the Company. "We will consider anything which may be of interest to a collector" he said.

Some Big Dollars in Early Banknotes

Early New Zealand Banknotes dated before 1932 are currently fetching big money! This is according to Mr Tony Grant, author of the *John Bertrand New Zealand Coin & Banknote Catalogue*. Mr Grant is in Otaki and Kapiti Coast on 21st and 22nd August on a buying trip for John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd and would be very keen to see any of these issues. "We will pay at least \$300 for any undamaged Ten Shilling or One Pound

banknote from a New Zealand trading bank dated 1932 or before.

Denominations of five pounds and higher would be worth from \$700. "Any banknote dated prior to 1900 would be worth at least \$1000" said Mr Grant.

Also purchased are any Reserve Bank of New Zealand pre-decimal issues, especially 50 Pound notes. All overseas banknotes are also wanted, especially early Pacific Island issues.

Collectors Need War Medals

Currently, throughout NZ and the world there is a big demand by collectors for war medals. These cover all wars right through from the New Zealand Land Wars and the Boer War, to the First and Second World Wars and the later Korea and Vietnam conflicts. New Zealand Servicemen and Women first served overseas in the Boer War in South Africa around 1900 and the war medals awarded for this service are needed by the buyers, as are any other Medals from early New Zealand and the New Zealand Wars.

General service medals from both the First and Second World Wars will also be purchased, but as can be imagined these were awarded in fairly large numbers. "If a group of medals has any special award for bravery such as the Military Medal, Military or Flying Cross or other medals for Distinguished Conduct or Meritorious Service, these can add great value to a group" stated Mr Tony Grant, buyer for John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd. "Many families have old medals, some dating back to early Imperial days, that they are not sure what to do with. These are better off in the hands of collectors who will look after them. We will be happy to look at any war medals whatsoever, just bring them in to venues" he said.

Old Coins Can Toss Up a Rarity

Do you have a bunch of old coins sitting around in your drawers and cupboards? You just never know what rarities may be lurking there. The advice from Tony Grant from John Bertrand (Collectables) Limited is to "bring them in and let us have a look". "No need to sort anything out just bring them in 'as is' and please don't clean them! We can go through coin accumulations and collections fairly quickly" he said. The buyers are particularly keen to buy pre 1946 New Zealand Silver Coins for at least 20 times their face value (more for quantity). "In any event we will buy All Coins," said Mr Grant.

JOHN BERTRAND (COLLECTABLES) ARE BUYING NOW!!

OLD GOLD

- Unwanted Jewellery or Broken Rings
- Gold Chains
- Gold Watch Cases
- Alluvial (River) Gold
- Dental Gold
- Gold Coins
- Gold Racing & Trophy Cups



COINS

- All Gold & Silver Coins
- Gold Sovereigns
- Gold Half Sovereigns
- NZ Silver Coins 1946 & Before (at least 20 times face value)
- Also wanted NZ & World Coins after 1946
- Australian Silver Coins to 1963
- English Silver Coins to 1946
- NZ 1935 "Waitangi Crown"
- USA Coins up to 1964
- Old Collections & Accumulations of World Coins
- Modern Collector's Coins & Sets
- NZ Reserve Bank Sets
- *No Pennies or Halfpennies Please*



BANKNOTES

- NZ & Australian "Trading Bank" Notes pre 1932 (e.g. Bank of New South Wales, Bank of NZ etc)
- Reserve Bank of NZ Pre-Decimal Notes
- Any £20, £50 or £100 Notes
- Hong Kong & Malayan Banknotes
- Australian Pre Decimal Notes
- Australian "Star" Notes
- Early Fijian and Samoan Banknotes
- NZ Traders Promissory Notes (1840s)
- NZ Government Debentures
- NZ Banknotes overprinted for use in Fiji, Cook Islands etc
- Postal Notes
- All other World Banknotes



GOLD & SILVER

- Racing Cups
- A&P Show Cups
- Sports Cups
- Presentation Keys & Trowels
- Show Pieces
- Sterling Silver Tea Sets
- Sterling Silver Cutlery
- Scrap Gold & Silver
- *No EPNS or Silver Plated items Please*

WRIST & POCKET WATCHES

- Gold & Silver Pocket Watches
- Any Rolex Watches
- Omega Gents Watches
- Any Breitling, Jaeger Le Coultre, Vacheron & Constantin, Patek Philippe, or IWC Watches
- Moon Phase Watches
- Chiming or Alarm Watches (Pocket or Wrist)
- Military Watches
- Divers Watches
- All other pre 1950s wind up watches (parts value only)
- *No Quartz or Battery Operated Watches Please*



No item too small for our consideration

TOKENS

- NZ & Australian "Tradesmen's" Tokens
- NZ Transportation Tokens
- Railway Passes
- Tram Tokens (not Dunedin Tramways)
- Presbyterian Church Communion Tokens
- Bread Tokens
- Theatre, Cafe, Discount Tokens etc
- Any other tokens relating to early New Zealand

COLLECTABLES

- Albums & Accumulations of Pre 1920s Postcards (used or unused)
- Old Fountain Pens
- Small Chinese & Japanese Antiques
- Maori & Pacific Artefacts



WAR MEDALS ETC

- The New Zealand Wars & Boer War Medals
- 1st World War Medals
- 2nd World War Medals, Stars etc
- Orders and Decorations
- Korea & Vietnam Medals
- Antarctic or other Polar Medals
- Fire Brigade Medals
- Lodge Medals
- Shooting Medals
- Military Badges and all other Military Medals
- Gold returning Fob Medals or "Tokens of Honour" from residents of small town New Zealand

HISTORICAL MEDALS

- A&P Show- Gold, Silver & Bronze Medals
- Commemorative Medals & Medalets
- Prize Medals (Gold & Silver)
- Sports Medals (Gold & Silver)
- Life Saving Medals
- Shipwreck Medals
- Coronation Medals
- etc, etc, etc



JOHN BERTRAND (COLLECTABLES) LTD OUR BUYERS ARE IN YOUR AREA 21ST AND 22ND AUGUST

OTAKI	Fri 22 Aug	Otaki Presbyterian Church Hall, 249 Mill Road	9 am to 11 am
-------	------------	--	---------------

ALSO AT

LEVIN	Thurs 21 Aug	Levin Uniting Church, Andrew Room, 87 Oxford Street	12.30 am to 2 pm
RAUMATI BEACH	Thurs 21 Aug	Kapiti Uniting Parish Church, Community Hall, 10 Weka Road	3 pm to 4.30 pm
WAIKANAЕ	Fri 22 Aug	Waikanae Senior Citizens Community Centre, 28 Utauta Street	12 noon to 2 pm
PARAPARAUMU BEACH	Fri 22 Aug	Ocean Road Community Centre, 45 Ocean Road	2.30 pm to 4 pm



NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

Please note: If you sell anything to us, suitable ID is required. Please also bring your bank account details for the deposit of funds for larger purchases.

John Bertrand The Trusted Name In Numismatics Since 1965!

John Bertrand (Collectables) Limited
T: 04 232 9832 • E: info@bertrand.co.nz
Level 1 Harcourt's Building, 215 Main Road,
Tawa, Wellington 5028
PO Box 323, Wellington 6140



JOHN BERTRAND™
COLLECTABLES LTD

Members of the Australasian Numismatic Dealers Association and the New Zealand Numismatic Dealers Association



Mereana chairs TWoR board

Dr Mereana Selby (Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Huia, Ngāti Porou) has been appointed as Te Amokapua, the newly elected chair of Te Mana Whakahaere (TMW), the governing board of Te Wānanga o Raukawa.

In a statement, Te Wānanga o Raukawa said Mereana's return to a leadership role marked a powerful reaffirmation of its unwavering commitment to iwi-led education, the advancement of mātauranga Māori, and the restoration of cultural authority. The appointment reflected the strength of TWoR's kaupapa and the enduring legacy of leadership grounded in whakapapa, tikanga, and te reo Māori.



"This appointment honours a legacy that spans generations, strengthening the connection between kaupapa Māori governance and transformative education for the ART Confederation (Ngāti Raukawa, Te Āti Awa, Ngāti Toa Rangatira)," the statement said.

From her early career as a te reo Māori educator, to her appointment as the first Māori woman tumuaki of a wānanga, Mereana has consistently led with humility, clarity, and unwavering commitment to kaupapa.

"Māori know how to build institutions that reflect our worldviews, our obligations to one another, and our futures," Mereana says. "This appointment is not about me, it is about honouring the people who laid the foundation, the whānau who keep us grounded, and the generations yet to come."

TWoR tumuaki Professor Meihana Durie has welcomed the appointment.

"As a former and longstanding tumuaki, Mereana is innately aware of the unique distinctions but also the longer-term strategic priorities of our wānanga as a non-crown entity moving forward, and I join with fellow Te Mana Whakahaere members in welcoming her appointment."

Beggs live on with rotunda donation

The Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda got a welcome boost when Clare and Martin Gleeson recently made a significant donation to the rotunda restoration project.

The donation is in memory of Clare's parents, Enid and Ken Begg. It will fund the entire restoration of the tower – including steel reinforcing required by current building standards – and the stage in the centre of the building. In addition, they have sponsored 10 windows – one for the four children of Enid and Ken and one for each of their six grandchildren.

The Begg family had a long association with Ōtaki and many happy memories. They owned a bach near the beach from the 1970s, firstly in Tasman Road and then in Ngaio Street.

When Ken retired in 2015 at the age of 86, he moved to Ōtaki fulltime. He was a member of the Ōtaki Bridge Club and over the years was involved in musical activities on the Kāpiti Coast. He died in 2024, 37 years after Enid.

"Our family has had a close association with music for over 150 years, mainly through the Begg's Music Stores," Clare says. "Contributing to the restoration of the rotunda, which will be used for community musical events among other things, seemed an appropriate way to remember them."

"We were pleased to hear that Andrew London had praised its acoustics."


Rotunda trust chair Di Buchan says the trustees were blown away by the generous donation.

"It means that funding for this aspect of the restoration can now be diverted to other – albeit less glamorous – aspects, such as the re-piling."



RIGHT: Clare and Martin Gleeson in the rotunda.

Photo supplied





STAPLES TAX Accounting

Tala Staples

Over 20 years experience in accounting & taxation services.

New client discount

Services: Accounting & Taxation. GST/FBT returns. Payroll accounting. Trusts & Estates accounting. Advisory services. Accounting systems setup – XERO & MYOB.

14 Mahara Place, Waikanae
(inside the Post Shop)

022 215 4444

accountant@staplestax.co.nz

www.staplestax.co.nz

At Futurisk Kāpiti, we've got your back.



Specialised Insurance and Mortgages

We are local financial advisors providing the #1 Insurance & Mortgage solutions in the Kāpiti Coast & Horowhenua. We'll guide you through personalised solutions with honesty you can trust and advice you can count on. Book a free consultation today.



FUTURISK

INSURANCE & MORTGAGE

TODAY. TOMORROW. TOGETHER

Insurance and Mortgage Solutions | 0800 367 467 | www.futurisk.co.nz

Angela Buswell

Ōtaki
Community Board



I'm committed to listening, acting, and collaborating to ensure Ōtaki thrives – not just now, but for generations to come.

ange@superminx.co.nz
021 316 845

Authorised by Angela Buswell



Volunteers deliver new table



On Christmas Eve last year, Scrooge crept into the Manakau School grounds and stole a large children's picnic table.

It was a table where pupils would gather for lunch and breaks, and disappointing for the school that someone could be so mean.

Zero Waste Ōtaki heard about the theft and the committee decided to sponsor a replacement. Although Zero Waste recycles tonnes of used wood, the requirements for the school meant new timber was necessary.

Ōtaki MenzShed, whose volunteers "make stuff" for the community, agreed to build a new table with free labour; Zero Waste paid for the timber and fittings, which came in at more than \$600.

Dave MacIntyre, a Zero Waste committee member and Manakau resident, says all the funds needed were raised from the sale of timber the group recycles and diverts from the landfill.

The table was delivered on July 16, much to the delight of pupils, who couldn't wait to use it at lunchtime.

Principal Andrea Boon said the school was very grateful to Zero Waste and the MenzShed for their collaborative effort.

"Our students love sitting around, chatting, eating and enjoying our environment. An outstanding community effort."

Pictured using the new picnic table for the first time (above left) are pupils, from left, Te Waipounamu, Ruby, Liliana, Max, Alex, Rocco, and Bastian. Standing at the back, from left, are Barry Dwane of MenzShed, Graham Evans of MenzShed and Zero Waste, Zero Waste chair Barbara Hoverd, Manakau School principal Andrea Boon, and Alan Hoverd of Zero Waste.

Photo Ōtaki Today



HOBSON MILLS LAW

INCORPORATING SUSIE MILLS LAW

ŌTAKI

282 Mill Road
06 364 7190

WAIKANAE

5 Aputa Place
04 293 3735

hobsonmills.com • office@hobsonmills.com

Let's Work Together

- *Leadership*
- *Engagement*
- *Transparency*

Achievements

- *Cancelled the expensive, unwanted Kapiti Gateway project (Te Uruhi)*
- *Initiated the development of strategic priorities for Council (Top 10 priorities)*
- *Instigated the development of a comprehensive system for assessing the Chief Executive's performance*
- *Instigated a line by line review of Council spending for the 2025 Annual Plan undertaken by officers*
- *Initiated the development of a breakdown of costs by activity to be provided to ratepayers so they can see where their rates money goes*

My 'To Do' List

- *Increased focus on financial accountability and transparency*
- *Improved communication of financial information to ratepayers in easy to understand formats*
- *Improved engagement with the community on key issues, with options for those who want more detail*
- *Greater input from the community to prioritise Council spending and agree core Council activities*
- *Explore options for alternative funding for important but non-core Council activities*



Liz Koh

for Mayor

Authorised by Liz Koh koh4kapiti@gmail.com

ŌTAKI COMMUNITY: SIMON BLACK

Choice at the ballot box

Local elections are just around the corner, and this year we have more candidates standing across Kāpiti than in previous years – figures show the candidate numbers are up about 30 percent.

That's a great sign of community engagement, and it means we'll have real choice at the ballot box.

You'll be voting for:

- Mayor – the chair of the council, who has just one vote, but sets the tone of leadership.
- Districtwide councillors – focusing on Kāpiti-wide issues.
- Ward councillors – representing major townships, including our own.
- Community board members – not officially part of council, but absolutely critical for local advocacy.

Kāpiti Coast District Council has 11 councillors, and only six votes are needed to pass any decision. Those people, alongside the mayor, also appoint the council's chief executive, who then employs all council staff.

So having a team that works well together matters for getting things done.

Why should you care? Because council decisions influence nearly every part of our daily lives, from roads, libraries and consents, to parks and open spaces, youth and senior services, community grants, environmental health, climate resilience, recreation facilities, and so much more.

How do you get to know what our candidates stand for? Show up to candidate events. Ask questions, send them an email, or have a look at vote.nz.

Ōtaki has a strong field of candidates – let's make sure our voice is heard.

Decide who best represents your values and your community, vote, and vote with consideration. There is power in your choice!

■ *Simon is deputy chair of the Ōtaki Community Board*



Funding aims to bring historical stories to life

The district's heritage is being supported again this year with Kāpiti Coast District Council's Museum and Heritage Development Fund, which provides \$13,000 to support local projects that protect and share the district's unique history.

The council's customer and community group manager, Brendan Owens, says the fund provides financial support for initiatives that showcase the district's heritage – from exhibitions and documentaries to restorations and digital storytelling.

"We want to celebrate our district's taonga – precious items and places to be preserved, stories to tell, and people to honour – for current and future generations," Brendan says.

Funding is available for short-term or longer-term museum and heritage initiatives. Grants can either be:

- a one-off grant for a specific activity, supporting projects that run over one to two years, or
- seed funding for longer-term initiatives, while ongoing viability and sustainability is developed.

Grants can be for multiple years and, as a guide, are usually about \$4000 or more a year.

Past recipients include the Kāpiti Coast Museum for its Telling the Kāpiti



Trevor Wylie and Barbara Devery look at an exhibition at Ōtaki Museum. Photo Ōtaki Today

Story exhibition, Kāpiti Aviation Museum for upgraded displays, Steam Incorporated for volunteer and youth training, and the Paekākāriki Station Precinct Trust, which delivered digital upgrades and community events.

Anyone with a museum or heritage project idea that might benefit from a funding boost will need to connect with the team before applying.

"Having a conversation early helps

ensure your project is a good fit – and gives it the best chance of success," Brendan says.

Applications for this funding round close on Monday, September 1.

■ *For more information, visit kapiticoast.govt.nz/services/grants-and-funding, email artsadmin@kapiticoast.govt.nz or call 0800 486 486.*

ROB KOFOED

The right choice for the Ōtaki Ward

I am a current councillor, registered architect and arbitrator for 40 years.

I have:

- restored access to the Ōtaki Forks
- supported Moy Place and reservoir reviews
- fourhouse transformation into an art gallery
- advocated for Ōtaki health services
- access to a Kapiti polyclinic and affordable housing
- personally funded the Ōtaki KYS (Kāpiti Youth Service) building.

I formed an urban panel to mitigate against over-dense housing developments and to protect our precious open spaces.

Plans:

- Ōtaki Civic Centre
- tighten-up council contract spending
- control freedom camping
- roadworks coordination.

I am a Civic Award recipient for services to the community that include Friends of the Ōtaki River, Sanatorium walkways, Katihiku Marae, Rāhui Rugby Club, Ōtaki foodbank, Ōtaki College marae and Montessori. I am a foundation trustee of the Kāpiti Coast Art Trail Trust.

I am fully committed to using my professional expertise to ensure the best representation and a better share of funding for Ōtaki.



Authorised by Rob Kofoed, rob.kofoed@xtra.co.nz

VOTE

CHRIS PAPPS

FOR ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD



Chris

- was Chair and a member of the Ōtaki Community Board for the past four electoral terms
- lives in Otaki and has worked on the Kāpiti Coast for more than 30 years
- has a broad knowledge of issues and opportunities in Ōtaki
- has a long-term interest in public transport
- advocated successfully for better bus and train services for Ōtaki
- is a former Chair of the Community Expressway Liaison Group.

As a member of the Ōtaki Community Board Chris will continue to focus attention and advocate on public transport and issues which vitally affect the future of Ōtaki and its people.

Authorised by Chris Papps – christine.papps@xtra.co.nz



Zimmermans return

The times may be changing, but the Zimmermans are still making their annual pilgrimage to the Kāpiti Coast, at Paekakariki’s St Peter’s Hall on Sunday August 24.

The Dylan interpreters will present another two-hour set of the master’s songs, including a host of the standards and lesser-known gems. “We make sure to play songs everyone knows and loves,” says Zimmerman Chris Nichol. “Songs like *The Times They are a-Changin’*, *Tangled Up in Blue*, and *All Along the Watchtower*. But in a recording career spanning 60 years there are some terrific songs that have

passed a lot of people by.”
 The Zimmermans are a nine-piece band featuring five vocalists, two guitarists, keyboards, bass, drums, a full brass section and backup singers.
 ■ *The Zimmermans*. 7.30pm Sunday, August 24, St Peter’s Hall Paekākāriki. Doors open 6.30pm. Tickets at eventfinda.co.nz – search for ‘Zimmermans’

Janet Holborow

VOTE 1 FOR MAYOR

- Resilient Communities
- Strong Finances and Infrastructure
- Caring for the Environment

Keep Kāpiti Moving Forward

www.janetholborow.co.nz



Authorised by Janet Holborow, janetholborow@gmail.com

MCCANN FOR MAYOR



MAKE COUNCIL WORK FOR YOU

MCCANN CAN

Authorised by rob@mccann.nz



Songsters back with a Spring Sing

The Ōtaki Spring Sing is back for 2025.

This year marks the fifth as a two yearly event, alternating with the Kāpiti Choir festival. It means there's a spring choir event in the region every year.

"It is always a great thing to get local choirs together and perform in public," says organiser and musical director Ann-Marie Stapp.

The Spring Sing is at the Memorial Hall from 2-4pm on Sunday, September 14.

This year 12 choirs from throughout Kāpiti and Levin, and including Ōtaki, will be participating. A total of up to 100 singers will present a wide variety of songs, ranging from musical hits and cabaret to rock and roll.

"Everyone will recognise and enjoy the music," Ann-Marie says. "They're favourites of the performers, so they'll appeal to the audience, too."

It's hoped that Spring Sing will encourage some former choir members to come back – and bring in some new ones.

Ōtaki has a community choir already,

Let's Sing Ōtaki, which meets every Tuesday afternoon, so if the September concert is inspiring, there's not far to go to join in.

"Singing involves focused breathing and it's a really healthy activity," Ann-Marie says. "It's great for the lungs and gives people a good work-out, plus it lets people socialise and meet other people."

Spring Sing 2025 is a celebration of song that she hopes will lead to a sustained revival for choirs and audiences alike.

"If people come along and enjoy the show, they might just think about singing themselves. No one's a bad singer – they just need a bit of training. Singing is a lot of fun. It's never too late to start."

■ *Spring Sing, 2-4pm Sunday, September 14, Memorial Hall, Ōtaki. Koha entry. For information, contact Ann-Marie at amstapp@xtra.co.nz*

Musical director Ann-Marie Stapp with members of Let's Sing Ōtaki. Photo supplied



Black Eyed Susie at the Stationhouse for August gig

Black Eyed Susie are booked for Stationhouse Social Club's August 21 social gig.

This will be Black Eyed Susie's first gig as a trio, featuring Jessica Murphy, who has joined forces with musicians Susan Collien-Reid and Ramon Oza.

"We have been wowed by Susan and Ramon a couple of years ago, and they are back for another great night," Stationhouse's Anje Glindemann says. "Susan is a fantastic songwriter and musician and so is Ramon. They have recorded music together, and separately, to great acclaim and are Kāpiti live music legends."

"Jess has newly made her home in Kāpiti and is rapidly making a name for herself as a versatile singer and keyboard player. She joins them on the 21st."

Susan and Ramon have been performing their unique blend of blues Celtic and funk since 2006. They have spent nearly 20 years weaving their own sound from Ramon's R&B funk guitar and Susie's classical/Celtic/rock violin. Jazz, contemporary pianist and vocalist Jessica Murphy has a passion for creating soulful and dynamic music. The trio from vastly different backgrounds produce a unique mix of sound.

- Stationhouse Social Club at Ōtaki Golf Club
- 6.30-9pm Thursday, August 21
- Includes two-course meal from Kiwi Kai and two live bands – The Salty Hearts and Black Eyed Susie.
- Doors and bar open at 6pm, show starts at 6.30 sharp, dinner served about 7pm.
- Tickets \$50pp, by emailing Anje: gregandanje@xtra.co.nz



The trio making up Black Eyed Susie: From left, Ramon Oza, Susan Collien-Reid, and Jessica Murphy.

Photos supplied

Heniti Buick - Ōtaki Ward Councillor Candidate

Kia ora, I'm Heniti – a proud believer that Ōtaki is the centre of the universe.

I'm just a regular local, putting my hand up to give our community another option - someone who will represent your voice at the Council table and advocate for what matters to us.

As CEO of a local health and social services organisation, a coach, and a mum of four, I know what it's like to juggle life here. I see the challenges, but I also see the opportunities to make Ōtaki even better. In my time as CEO, I've built strong relationships and delivered projects that have made a real difference for our people.

This role can't be about ego - it's about rolling up our sleeves, working together, and focusing on what we and the next generation will need to thrive in Ōtaki.

If elected, I'll work to:

- Strengthen connections across our community
- Use your voice to drive efficient, transparent use of ratepayers' contributions
- Support local businesses to grow and thrive
- Bring practical solutions to local challenges
- Keep our community's voice strong in Council decisions

I'm here to listen, to show up, and to get things done – without the politics.

A Facebook page will be live soon so you can reach out directly. Until then, I look forward to meeting you at the upcoming community forums where I'll be there in person to answer your questions.

Authorised by Heniti Buick, heniti.davis@gmail.com

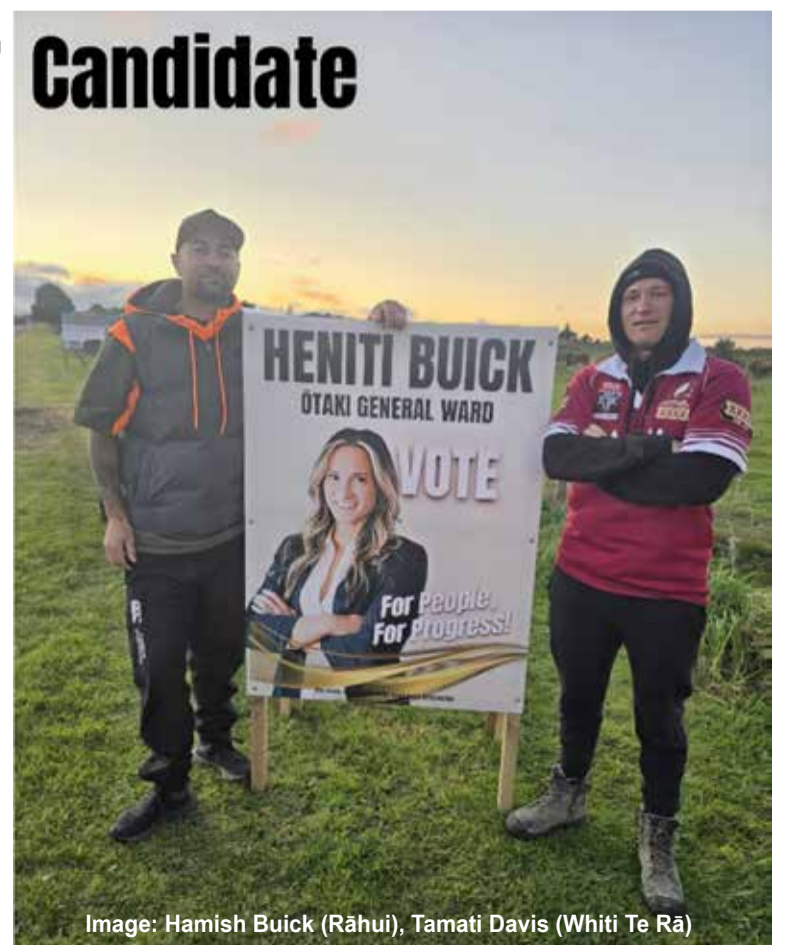


Image: Hamish Buick (Rāhui), Tamati Davis (Whiti Te Rā)

HUATAU/Opinion

MAYOR'S VIEW: JANET HOLBOROW

Local groups make a real difference in our community

This year's Wellington Regional Airport Community Awards featured a number of Ōtaki finalists – Ōtaki Market, Ōtaki Kids' Market and the Ōtaki Women's Community Group.



These groups make a real difference in the community, providing vibrant community events and opportunities for local businesses.

Council has provided some funding for entrepreneurial development for young people in Ōtaki through the Māori Economic Development Grants. This was a partnership approach between Ōtaki Business Association and the Ōtaki Kids' Market and has seen "Dream

Workbooks" provided to schools and market participants. The books allow young people to work through their entrepreneurial ideas. This learning is so valuable for our young people, providing skills which can be applied not only to their business lives but also other careers and education.

The Ōtaki Kids' Market is also involved in this year's Wellington on a Plate with their High Tea Party. Tamariki and rangatahi will

be bringing their creative skills to preparing a selection of goodies, overseen by local chef Lucinda Caldwell from Seriously Pickled. Anam Cara Gardens is the perfect venue, and recently hosted the 25th Anniversary of the Friends of the Ōtaki River.

The Friends group has made such a difference to the local environment over the years, not only planting many thousands of trees, but also working with Greater Wellington Regional Council and iwi to control flooding and deliver infrastructure along the corridor. They have also advocated for the river, including stopping extraction for the water supply in Waikanae in the early years.

The Ōtaki River and surrounding

groundwater is an open system, so the health of the river is of paramount importance for the whole ecosystem in and around Ōtaki. Thanks to the many people who have been involved in restoring and enhancing the river, particularly Max Lutz who has been a driving force for many years.

A significant event taking place in August is the Bookmark Kāpiti Literary Festival. In its first year, this festival features a variety of events across the district celebrating the written and spoken word.

In Ōtaki, storytellers featured in Kia rerekē te Hua, Ōtaki / In other words, Ōtaki, a ten-day residency programme. The storytellers aim to use words for positive change, and themes include food resilience,

children's writing, illustration, theatre, environmental degradation and Te Tiriti. The event culminated in a story-telling and hāngi lunch on August 10. It's a powerful example of how storytelling and art can be influencers of social change and commentary. I hope this and the wider Bookmark Kāpiti festival become a regular addition to our events calendar.

Lastly, congratulations to the many organisations who've entered this year's Electra Business Awards. The awards are a wonderful opportunity for businesses, so thank you to the organisers, sponsors, judges and everyone who supports this important event.

■ Janet is mayor of Kāpiti.

THE ELECTORATE: TIM COSTLEY, MP

Giving children our best matters

There are few things more important to the future of our young people than education.

Giving our children the very best matters, and that's why we're proposing to replace NCEA with new national qualifications to ensure New Zealand students have the knowledge and skills they need to succeed.

Current evidence shows 49% of parents and 40% of students reported not understanding NCEA. Too many of our kids make up their qualification through a random selection of credits and standards that aren't coherent, ambitious or taking them on meaningful pathways into future study or employment. Further, we're actively disincentivising participation: last year alone more than 250,000 exam papers were left blank because students didn't deem participation necessary.



National is ambitious for our children. We have introduced an hour-a-day in reading, writing and maths, we've banned cell phones, we've brought

back phonics, delivered more than 800,000 new maths books and resources to classrooms, called time on open plan classrooms and got back to basics with a focus on quality teaching and learning. Now we want secondary qualifications that New Zealand can be proud of.

New qualifications will be internationally benchmarked, easier to understand, with clearer vocational pathways, a focus on foundational skills, and more consistent in how we assess students. Here are the key changes:

NCEA Level 1 would be removed, allowing year 11 students to stay at school all year and nail the foundations.

NCEA Levels 2 and 3 would be replaced by two new qualifications: the New Zealand Certificate of Education for year 12, and the New Zealand Advanced Certificate of Education for year 13.

We want to make the qualifications clear, not complex, so we're going back to As, Bs and Cs and a mark out of 100.

Assessments will move from a messy standards-based system to a subject-based approach that is based on a consistent, internationally benchmarked national curriculum.

Students will be required to take English and Mathematics at year 11, along with at least five subjects in years 12 and 13, needing to pass at least four to gain each certificate. These changes would take effect for students currently in year 8. Anyone who is year 9 and up will stay with the current NCEA system.

Consultation on the proposal is open until September 1, with final decisions due by the end of this year.

We're working hard on education because the future of our children, and our country, depends on it.

■ Tim is the Ōtaki electorate MP

CAM'S CORNER: CAM BUTLER

Get funding applications in for ŌCB meeting

Tēnā koutou whanau o Ōtaki.

Last meeting of the triennium

Wow, it has been nearly three years already and our last Ōtaki Community Board public meeting is coming up on Tuesday September 2. Get your funding applications in soon please. Last meeting we provided funding to a number of community projects, from the Coffee and Chat meetings to the Kāpiti Kaumātua Kapahaka Festival. I participated in the kapahaka festival and it was such a great festival. However I wouldn't say it is a strong point of mine so I was at the back of the performance.

Old SH1 revocation works

Work is progressing from both ends of the Railway shopping area with the Arthur Street intersection being the final destination. I don't need to describe much as you can see it with your own eyes as the area is transformed into a more shopper/pedestrian friendly space. You'll see improved footpaths, more pedestrian crossings and an overall more pleasant shopping area. Just need more shops filled!

Even the playground will be up for a refurbishment, though I have asked for the



tractor to stay, I think it is pretty cool!

Roundabout rodeos

The new wastewater pipe is edging towards the Mill Road and Old SH1 roundabout. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realise that this is going to be very disruptive with Rahui Road closed for up to four weeks for the SH1 roundabout works. Traffic management will be in place, as will detours. A few chill pills will be needed. The best thing about these big disruptions is that it signals the end of the new wastewater pipe project and everyone is looking forward to that.

And yes, the potholes are a problem. They are a work in progress to get a better road surface.

Dunstan/Arthur St intersection safety

The community board has been asking for safety improvements here for a while and

they are finally happening. Road marking and a Give Way sign will be in place soon to make the area safer for the community. This will include marked parking, some no parking on Dunstan Street, a Give Way at the intersection and painted centrelines.

And I am pleased to say that the young pedestrian hurt at the intersection is at home and getting better.

Clifden Cottage revealed

With the plastic wrap coming off Clifden Cottage at the start of Ōtaki Gorge Road, the heritage listed building can now be seen after Waka Kotahi has made it weathertight. The cottage has been moved to a parcel of land where Bridge Lodge used to be and will be up for sale as the PP2O activities wind down. There is a specific process for disposal of land acquired for infrastructure projects so it will be interesting to see who finally ends up owning the cottage. Anyone game for a cafe? Maybe a cycle hire business?

Keep being Sunny, Ōtaki.

• Like our Ōtaki Community Board Facebook page.

■ Cam is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board.

TE HORO OUTLOOK: MICHAEL MOORE

Community projects that bring us together

Our communities in Waikanae and Te Horo are proud, active, and deeply connected – and over the last few months, that spirit has been on full display as we begin work on two major projects: the rebuild of the much-loved Waikanae skatepark, and the new Waikanae library, Te Ara Whetū.

The closure of the Waikanae skatepark in June was disappointing for many, especially the young people and families who used it daily. It was a central place for fun, exercise, and connection.

Unfortunately, an independent report found significant safety concerns, and council had little options but to act. While it was a tough call, it was the right one to keep people safe.

The good news is that consultation on its replacement has already started – and we're inviting everyone to have their say. Whether



you're a skater, a parent, or a neighbour, your ideas will help shape a new skatepark that meets today's needs and future aspirations.

Just look at what was achieved with the new skatepark at Paraparaumu Beach! The redesign will be part of a wider Waikanae Park refresh, which will also include a new playgroup area and many other improvements to the grounds. You can get involved and learn more here: kapiticoast.govt.nz/WaikanaeParkRefresh.

Another exciting project is also under way – the long-awaited rebuild of the Waikanae Library, Te Ara Whetū. After a lot of community input, feedback, and visioning, construction has now started. Te Ara Whetū

will be more than a library – it will be a true community hub, a place for learning, creativity, meeting, and connection. When it opens at the end of 2026, it will be a proud symbol of what we can achieve when we work together.

And speaking of community spirit – our final round of community grants for this term of the Waikanae Community Board is now open.

If you have a local project, event, or initiative that could use a financial boost, now's the time to apply. Grants will be awarded at our September 2 meeting at Te Horo Hall, and applications close Thursday, August 21. Details are here: tinyurl.com/WCBgrants

Together, we're building a stronger, safer, and more connected community.

• Next meeting: 6.30pm Tuesday, September 2, Te Horo Hall, 58 School Road.

■ Michael is chair of the Waikanae Community Board and a Te Horo Beach resident

When a self-loathing society commmits self harm

There's occasionally a moment when we see certain traits in other people that leave one pondering whether that's a reflection of "how others see us".

Where they are narcissists or deeply insecure people, I personally don't have that problem, thankfully.

But it is indeed unsettling to witness how insecurity, left unchecked, can spiral into self-loathing – a darkness that obliterates self-worth and, at its most harrowing, leads to

self-destructive acts. The leap from internal criticism to active self-harm is a tragic testament to the quiet power of the mind's harshest voices.

Given the struggles of the world, and any community you can think of, one might wonder if

JUST A THOUGHT



FRASER CARSON

these personal struggles echo on a broader scale. Are too many people and, by extension, our communities, caught in a pattern of collective self-loathing?

The signs are not always dramatic, but they are there: patterns of self-sabotage, cycles of cynicism, a tendency to undermine progress or kindness with doubt and harsh critique.

Sometimes, whole societies seem to turn against themselves, manifesting behaviours that mirror individual self-harm – neglecting wellbeing, fostering division, or dismissing the value of hope.



Image by Michaela, Pixabay

Dare I say it, aren't "accusations" by some to others of being "woke" a case in point?

Most recognise it as a right-wing political chant against namby-pamby liberals. But its honourable origins appear to have come from a heightened awareness of social and racial injustices. An example from the 1930s was blues musician Lead Belly singing "stay woke" in his song *Scottsboro Boys*, urging vigilance against racial injustice.

So call me "woke" all you like. It seems odd to use an accusing voice against something positive. I simply suggest that it's how any good parent would nurture a child to care about others and to not be a prat.

I've reflected on it before in this column – the cynical cat chasing the tail in a cardboard box of social media; local authorities that can't raise enough candidates or voters to function as a proper democracy, and a spiteful man-baby in America's White House. And while I'm at it,

what's happening to the world when we sit and watch a despot deliberately starve people to death in Gaza?

All these things are mere symptoms of bigger issues – the way society is increasingly rewarding those among us who are deeply insecure and use that trait to appeal to the baser instincts of people who appear to be searching for something different.

That "something different" often seems to be little more than a hail mary. The election of Trump, the UK Brexit vote and a significant number of oddities occupying decision making seats on our local councils proves my point. So much negative "them-and-us" destruction of the things that hold society together – decency, fair debate, respect and kindness.

The answer to our malaise, of course, is in the majority of citizens who aren't insecure and recognise that the best bits of society are built on people intelligently working together, over

The answer to our malaise, of course, is in the majority of citizens who aren't insecure and recognise that the best bits of society are built on people intelligently working together, over time. It's hardly ever because of destructive processes, even when wrapped in a progressive cloak – take note, David Seymour.

time. It's hardly ever because of destructive processes, even when wrapped in a progressive cloak – take note, David Seymour.

Maybe by reflecting on the idea of civility there is a glimmer of possibility. By recognising these destructive patterns, both in ourselves and in the world, we open the door to gradual remedies.

The antidote to self-loathing, whether personal or collective, begins with empathy – a gentle acknowledgment of vulnerability and the shared desire for wholeness. Through understanding, dialogue, and care, we might disrupt these cycles and help foster communities that uplift rather than diminish.

Perhaps the greatest act of courage, for individuals and societies alike, is to turn toward these shadows by daring to believe that anything is possible, both within and beyond ourselves.

■ Fraser is founder of the community-building websites flightdec.com, redoor.net and inhub.org.nz

Genital Herpes research study

Are you frustrated from living with recurrent episodes of genital herpes?

Eligible participants will be compensated for travel related costs



Genital Herpes is widely prevalent and transmissible even without symptoms. Current treatments are only partially effective. There is a need for more potent, long-acting treatment.

Momentum Kapiti
04 908 1001
momentumclinicalresearch.co.nz

We invite adults aged 18 to 60 to participate in a clinical research study for a potential long-acting oral medication that aims to suppress recurrent episodes of genital herpes.

Scan to learn more or register



Inflation, growth and devaluation – are we measuring the right things?

By Phil Malpas

We worry about inflation. We seek growth. Yet our money doesn't go as far as it used to. Inflation is not the same as growth or devaluation, though the three are often linked and confused.

- To clarify:
- inflation is a general increase in prices
 - growth refers to an increase in an economy's production of goods and services
 - devaluation is a reduction in the value of a currency relative to others.

While inflation can result from growth or devaluation, it is not the same thing.

According to the Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ), the current inflation rate is 2.7 percent.

Their definition: "Inflation occurs when prices of a range of goods and services rise on average. It means that money's buying power is decreasing, although some wages may rise faster than inflation. In general, inflation occurs when demand outpaces supply. This leads to shortages of labour and materials, pushing costs up. Businesses can charge more for the same goods or services – as long as consumers are willing to pay more."

The RBNZ's policy objective is to maintain inflation at around 2 percent, using the Official Cash Rate (OCR) as their lever. By adjusting the OCR, they influence the interest rates banks charge, affecting borrowing, spending, and saving across the economy.

These are carefully crafted policy tools, rooted



The question we must ask is: Are we measuring the right things, in the right way, for the benefit of the real economy, or just measuring each other's beliefs?

in theory, politics, and institutional ideology. But their real-world effects are felt by all New Zealanders through fiat currency – money as a symbolic token of value, used to exchange goods and services both locally and globally.

Here lies the deeper question.

Consider this: An item that cost \$1 in 1900 might now cost \$38. That's a cumulative inflation rate of 3727 percent. For the same item – the same materials, utility, and purpose – does

this reflect inflation or currency devaluation? Are we using the right language to describe what's really happening?

If the basic needs of people are finite, such as food, shelter, energy, transport, and supply is ultimately limited by the natural world, then value should stem from those real constraints. But instead, we calculate value using fiat currency – a hypothetical, abstract concept. A measurement system.

Over time, we have been conditioned – behaviourally modified – to treat this abstract measure as if it were tangible. We act as though money is value, not a symbol of value.

This is not new. In the 1600s, Amsterdam's tulip bulb craze saw people trading homes for rare bulbs. Today, cryptocurrency plays a similar role: a digital unit of perceived worth, unanchored to any physical good.

But is there any real, tangible difference between the speculative value of tulip bulbs in 1648, modern cryptocurrency, and our own fiat currency?

All are belief systems – mutual agreements to treat a unit as valuable. The question we must ask is: Are we measuring the right things, in the right way, for the benefit of the real economy, or just measuring each other's beliefs?

Perhaps it's time to re-evaluate not just our inflation targets, but our entire idea of value.

■ *Phil has qualifications in management accounting, a degree with psychology major and a working background in IT. He is a director of a community-owned cooperative energy company. See philmalpas.substack.com/publish/posts/published*

Council spending 'among lowest'

Kāpiti Coast District Council's operational expenditure is among the lowest in the country, according to a recent report from the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA).

Councils have had their performance benchmarked against their peers as part of the government's drive to implement a council performance measurement framework.

Kāpiti's acting chief executive, Sean Mallon, says people want to know where their rates go and how their council stacks up against other councils of a similar size.

"We're committed to being open and transparent about our financial and operational performance with the community we serve, and the council profiles produced by DIA complement our existing performance reporting framework," he says.

He says the council has some significant challenges and, in the absence of any government funding to reduce a reliance on income from rates, a balance needs to be struck between keeping annual rates increases as low as possible while ensuring operating costs are covered and continued investment in assets to secure a more resilient future for residents.

"Through our Long-term Plan 2024-27 we made a commitment to keep our staff numbers below an agreed cap, and we continue to review our work programmes and look for ways to improve our operational effectiveness."

Join our frontline team

Good under pressure? Great with people? You might be exactly what we're looking for. Join us **Thursday 21 August 6pm** Trentham, Upper Hutt to learn more about a career as a corrections officer.

Register now

<https://corr.nz/Rimutaka>

or freetext 'rimutaka' to 4072

TE HUNGA RANGATAHI

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Aged 16-24 needing support gaining employment or enrolling in education?

Live in Ōtaki and not engaged in education or employment?

Join Te Hunga Rangatahi for an exciting, free 12-week programme where you'll build valuable life skills, boost your confidence, gain qualifications and get ready for the workforce!

Benefits

- Explore career options
- Hands on learning
- Gain driving lessons and/or drivers license
- Safe, supportive and fun learning
- Gain qualifications including First Aid, Barista Training, Health & Safety and Traffic Management

JOIN NOW

Text or Call 027 780 0801

Email kyla@tpoc.nz

Visit us 84c Mill Road, Ōtaki

OR

Complete QR code and someone will get in touch!

Feedback – the hidden gold mine

Have you ever lost a customer and wondered why?

Do your team members give you real, honest input – or just nod along?

Are you building your business on facts, or assumptions?

If you're not actively seeking feedback, you could be flying blind.



CHRIS WHELAN

Too many business owners overlook one of their most powerful growth tools: feedback. It's not flashy. It's not complicated. But it is gold.

When done well, feedback improves products, strengthens teams, boosts customer retention, and fuels continuous improvement. Done poorly – or not at all – it quietly undermines your business from within.

Why feedback matters

Think of feedback as your business's mirror. It shows you what's working and what isn't. Without it, you're stuck making decisions based on gut feeling, not real data.

That's dangerous. The best businesses use feedback to:

- catch issues early before they become expensive problems
- improve customer experience by hearing what customers actually want
- boost employee engagement by showing staff their voices matter



Image by Gerd Altmann, Pixabay

- create a culture of trust and learning, where people grow – and so does the business. And here's the kicker: neuroscience shows feedback lights up the brain's reward system. Whether it's praise or constructive input, feedback motivates better performance. It literally rewires us to improve.

The employee advantage
Engaged employees are a business's secret weapon. But engagement doesn't happen by accident. It happens through regular, meaningful feedback.

Great leaders don't wait for annual reviews. They create a culture of two-way dialogue where team members feel safe to speak up. They use tools like:

- employee surveys to track morale and alignment
- pulse checks to respond to change or tension
- exit interviews to learn why good people leave
- 360-degree feedback to help leaders see their blind spots.

When you listen to your team – and act on what they say – loyalty and performance climb.

Feedback fuels loyalty
Your customers are talking. The only question is: are you listening?

Businesses that treat feedback seriously create loyal customers. Why? Because customers feel heard. They feel valued. And they see improvements based on their input.

- Here's how to collect it:
- surveys after purchases or service calls.
 - one-question forms at key touchpoints.
 - social media reviews and comments – a goldmine of real-time sentiment.
 - online ratings (Google, TripAdvisor, etc.) and thoughtful replies.

When feedback informs how you refine your offering, customers notice. They stay longer, buy more often, and tell others.

- Six feedback best practices**
1. Make it safe – Use anonymous surveys where possible.
 2. Be specific – Vague questions get vague answers.
 3. Act quickly – Respond in real time, not weeks later.

4. Embrace the uncomfortable – Negative feedback is often your biggest opportunity.
5. Build it into strategy – Don't treat feedback as an afterthought.
6. Close the loop – Tell people what you heard – and what you're doing about it.

Listening turned a business around
One of my clients – a refrigeration business owner – noticed customer retention slipping. His team thought all was fine. But a quick Net Promoter Score survey told a different story. Customers were frustrated by slow quotes and delayed invoicing. These weren't on management's radar.

The owner took immediate action:

- hired admin help
- fixed the invoicing system
- personally called each unhappy client.

Result? Retention bounced back. But more importantly, the business earned a reputation for listening and acting. That built long-term trust, and more referrals.

Final word
Feedback isn't a checkbox. It's a mindset. When business owners listen deeply and act wisely, they unlock growth, loyalty, and performance.

So here's your challenge: what's one part of your business you could improve just by listening better? Ask the question. Gather the input. Then close the loop.

Because the answers you need to grow are already out there, if you're willing to hear them.

■ *Chris is a business and leadership coach based in the Wellington region, helping small and medium-sized business owners grow profit, build strong teams, and lead with purpose. Contact Chris at the Centre of Business Excellence – chris@wcbce.co.nz or 022 2332 669.*

WALK IN VACCINATION CLINIC UPDATE

POST-PONED FOR AUGUST

FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST OUR TUESDAY AND THURSDAY IMMUNISATION CLINICS WILL BE UNAVAILABLE

WHERE TO GET VACCINATED

If you are enrolled with Oranga Ōtaki GP Services please give our team a call and we will book you in.

0800 685 364

Please contact your current Healthcare Provider if enrolled elsewhere.

TE PUNA ORANGA O ŌTAKI OPEN DAY

Come along to our Open Day to check out our spaces and the services we provide.

📍 Tukutuku panel activity at Taringaroa

📍 Free Sausage sizzle at Rangatahi Ora

📍 Kai available at each site

📍 Information and enrolment packs

6TH SEPTEMBER 2025 | 10:00AM-12:30PM

<p style="font-weight: bold;">RANGATAHI ORA YOUTH SERVICES</p> <p>84B/C MILL ROAD</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">ORANGA ŌTAKI GP SERVICES</p> <p>51 MAIN STREET</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">NOT OPERATING AS A CLINIC ON THIS DAY</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">MAURI ORA TAMARIKI ORA, MATERNITY & IMMUNISATIONS</p> <p>88 MILL ROAD</p>
---	---	---

🌐 tepunaoranga-otaki.nz

📞 0800 685 364 (0800 OTK 364)

TE PUNA ORANGA O ŌTAKI

TE HUIंगा RANGATAHI KI ŌTAKI

Oranga Ōtaki

HAUORA-PŪTAIO /Health-science

A Covid submission that's simply bad science

In July, a royal commission heard from organisations and individuals about their experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic to inform and improve our future preparedness.

A submission by New Zealand Doctors Speaking Out with Science (NZDSOS), challenges the efficacy and safety of the Pfizer vaccine (*Section 1: Dr Shelton – A Critique on Safe and Effective*). It is proposed that there is a convergence of evidence from multiple sources showing the “Covid-19 injections are profoundly dangerous and must be withdrawn”, while emphatically stating that “the scientific case against the mRNA injections is now overwhelming”.

Strong words, and in stark contrast to the position of the wider scientific community, that maintains that the Covid-19 vaccines dramatically reduced severe illness and deaths, and, by reducing hospitalisations, prevented health care systems being totally overwhelmed.

Ongoing surveillance (with more than 12 billion doses given globally) confirms a good safety profile. While serious side effects can occur, they are very rare. This robust benefit-risk balance underscores vaccines as a cornerstone of pandemic control.

NZDSOS claim to “speak out with science”, and indeed they heavily reference their 362-page written submission with science publications, so why is their position so radically different from mainstream science?

To answer that we need to look closely at their sources of information.

For example, they cite a Cleveland Clinic study, whose results they call “clear and alarming”, where additional vaccine doses were associated with a higher risk of testing positive for Covid-19. But this was a heavily confounded

observational study, and many things could explain the outcome: for example, younger and healthier people may opt to have fewer vaccine shots and be less likely to seek out Covid-19 testing.

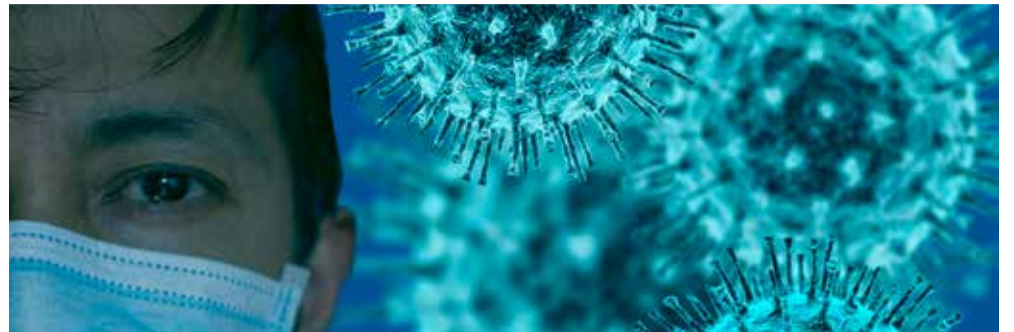
Numerous, far better controlled, studies have confirmed that Covid-19 booster shots provide improved protection. The modus operandi of NZDSOS is not to weigh the evidence, but rather to cherry pick methodologically weak

studies that support their position. They cite a review study of 44 studies involving 325 autopsies where the review authors had independently judged that most of the deaths were attributable to Covid-19 vaccine injury (the authors of the original studies disagree). But the review study judges all have a history of promoting false and misleading information about vaccine safety, and the review paper was rejected by 18 journals on the grounds of flawed methodology

HEALTH SCIENCE



DR STEVE HUMPHRIES



and analysis, misrepresentation and lack of factual support for conclusions, and failure to recognise and cite disconfirming evidence.

Nevertheless, the paper was good enough for NZDSOS to cite without any comment about the quality of the data.

NZDSOS cite a recent peer-reviewed study, asserting that its findings alone warrant serious reconsideration of the current vaccine programme. The title of the article is dramatic: *Review: Calls for Market Removal of Covid-19 Vaccines Intensify as Risks Far Outweigh Theoretical Benefits*, and much ado was made on social media that a peer-reviewed study was calling for the withdrawal of the Covid-19 vaccines.

But the “journal” the study is published in, *Science, Public Health Policy, and the Law*, is simply a WordPress blog. An author of the “peer-reviewed” study, Dr Peter McCullough (who has had his medical certificates revoked for promoting misinformation and conspiracy theories about Covid-19 vaccine safety), also serves as editor-in-chief of the “journal”. The article itself is nothing but a collection of anti-vaccine misinformation.

Deceptive publications (“predatory journals”) are designed to look like real scientific journals but don't have all the normal quality controls: They operate without affiliation to any major academic institutes or professional presses, they are not listed in the major bibliographic databases (for example, Web of Science or PubMed), and they have no transparent peer-review process.

The term “peer-reviewed” has no meaning unless the peer-review process is transparent - and you have taken the trouble to check it.

No one knows for sure how many predatory journals there are, but it is estimated many thousands collectively churn out hundreds of thousands of low quality or misleading articles every year.

NZDSOS reference a review article by Nathaniel Mead in the *International Journal of Cardiovascular Research & Innovation*, which reports that myocarditis following mRNA Covid-19 vaccination is significantly more common than myocarditis following SARS-

CoV-2 infection. NZDSOS “respectfully submit that this paper should be taken as authoritative”, and encourage the commission to examine the review closely, something the commission would struggle to do given this predatory journal no longer exists.

Multiple large-scale studies published in credible journals show that the risk of being hospitalised or dying from myocarditis after catching SARS-CoV-2 far outweighs the exceedingly small risk following an mRNA vaccine.

NZDSOS also cites studies from *The International Journal of Vaccine Theory, Practice, and Research*, a predatory journal whose editorial board includes leading anti-vaccine activists, among them members of the anti-vaccine group Children's Health Defense founded by the antivaccine activist Robert F Kennedy. The journal's anti-vaccine articles have been sharply criticised by the scientific community - going so far as to describe them as “scientific gibberish”. Unfortunately, these types of articles are widely shared and discussed on social media by people “doing their own research”.

The NZDSOS written submission is a train wreck; they repeatedly cite untrustworthy sources, cherry pick information, and ignore abundant disconfirming evidence. And it's hard to understand their level of conspiratorial thinking - this is a group that continues to insist that the Pfizer vaccine contains secret nanotechnology and can make you magnetic, and also contains secret nanotech self-assembling electronic components. Go figure.

When the government doesn't adopt their recommendation to declare the Covid-19 vaccine “profoundly dangerous”, they will no doubt proclaim to their followers that the government, health authorities, and media are all under the control of Big Pharma.

In reality, it's just that their submission is bad science.

■ 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.

Specialists in remedial and decorative concrete

specialist roofing · safety surfaces · epoxy works · joint repairs and sealant
pressure grouting · floor toppings & preparation · remedial concrete
waterstopping · tanking · FRP application

Concrete Doctors

30 Rimu Street, Otaki 5512
New Zealand
Ph +64 (06)3648634
Email: contact@concretedoctor.co.nz
Website: www.concretedoctor.co.nz

Time to screen National Bowel Screening Programme

Health New Zealand
Te Whata Ora
Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Bowel screening saves lives.

Are you eligible for free bowel screening?

Māori and Pacific peoples in MidCentral can have free bowel screening from the age of 50 to 74. It's important we have the right ethnicity recorded for you, so you can get your kit. You can call us on 0800 924 432 to check.



From the team at Pritchard Civil to all the teams at Rāhui Sports Club, their whānau and supporters.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

On another successful season proudly representing our club and community.

All the best to those players going onto representative duties this season.

We are looking forward to going hard again in 2026!

Specialists in infrastructure and land development.

www.pritchardcivil.co.nz

MAHI MĀRA/Gardening

Feed your fruit trees – carefully

Late winter, early spring is time to feed your deciduous fruit trees, but only if you need to.

Compost applied where compost isn't needed is overfeeding, and not only a waste of your money and time but also an inciter of disease, pest and excessive growth (aka, a pruning headache later on).

The one sure way to know whether or not fruit trees need a feed is to measure their vigour, i.e. the

EDIBLE GARDEN



KATH IRVINE

new wood that grew last season.

This is especially important for trees that are 1–3 years old because young trees need to get off to a flying start if they are to be healthy and fruitful later on. While young and unproductive, they can pour all their energy into stretching far and wide both above and below ground. Make the most

of this moment! Support them to create a strong frame and they'll have the capacity to bear fabulous crops for many years to come, with very little care from you.

Assessing new growth starts with being able to identify it. New wood is a different colour, usually lighter, or redder, a different texture – smoother or softer, it's more bendy, and grows on the ends of branches and shoots. The place where it joins second year wood is called a bud scar, a little ring of raised ridges.

Each tree type grows slightly different looking new wood, so get to know yours by going out to your trees.

Start at the tips of the branches and shoots, and work

backwards until you bump into the bud scar. It won't take you long to get your eye in, and now is the perfect time before they gear up to grow again next month.

My guide to vigour, is very general. Each variety behaves differently, as does each type of fruit tree and of course soil and climate also play their role.

Sounds like a lot, but honestly, all you need do is go hang with your trees and watch them grow and you'll suss it soon enough.

- A healthy showing, or healthy vigour, is new growth that's 20-30cm long and is spread evenly throughout the tree. Young trees with healthy vigour only need a shoveful of compost sprinkled about the dripline and a scattering of woody mulch on top. Established trees don't need any compost or mulch, especially if they are growing amongst a diverse groundcover. Be guided by your own intuition here, gardeners choice!
- Poor vigour, is when new wood is 10cm or less and/or there isn't much of it. Most likely the tree isn't planted in its happy place, so ponder its location. No amount of compost will change poor vigour to healthy when a tree is miserable. Spread no more than 1-2cm of compost around the dripline, to encourage roots out. Top with mulch.
- Too much vigour is when new wood is bonkers long, thick and strong. Step away from compost and mulch, and from the loppers too cos winter pruning inspires growth. Prune after harvest instead.

■ 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.



Top: Way too much vigour in this apple tree. My fault for overfeeding when young,
Above: Trees are at their best in a diverse groundcover
Left: Plum wood – three-year-old wood on the left, one-year-old wood on the right
Below: The bud scar where new wood joins two-year-old wood.



THE SOAP BOX

KLEEN-AWAY

2.3 litre bottle and refill



only \$40

EQUIVALENT TO WELL-KNOWN BRANDS AT A FRACTION OF THE PRICE!

- Moss, mould, lichen and algae remover.
- Non-toxic, non-bleach.
- Covers approximately 700 square metres.
- Easy to use.



62 Riverbank Rd, Otāki
06 364 5767
orders@dowco.co.nz

SOAPBOX | Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm
FACTORY | Friday 9am-3pm

WHAUWHAUPAKU

Whauwhaupaku, also known as Houhou or Tauparapara, is a rākau steeped in rich cultural and celestial significance.

It is considered an offspring of the stars Rehua (Antares in Scorpio) and Puanga (Rigel in Orion). During the months of July and August, this sacred tree bursts into bloom. As the rumblings of Rūaumoko, the Atua of earthquakes, stir the earth, they also awaken this plant, signalling a shift in mauri – a change in season and a time for new beginnings.

Whauwhaupaku (*pseudopanax arboreus*), or Five-finger, is a small, bushy tree distinguished by its glossy green, leathery, toothed leaves, which are arranged in a fan of 5 to 7 leaflets radiating from a central stalk. Between July and September, Whauwhaupaku produces large clusters of tiny, fragrant flowers, which are a vital source of nectar for native birds, including tui, hihi, tauhou, and kāka. The flowers bloom in purple clusters, with the inner flowers shining in lime green and white hues, creating a beautiful contrast against the winter landscape.

This tree is a boon for bees, offering abundant pollen and rich nectar early in the season, when few other species are in flower. Female trees are particularly unique, lacking petals and offering nectar alone, while male trees provide both nectar and pollen.

Rongoā

An infusion can be used for soaking and bathing wounds, or you can soak a cloth and gently apply it to an affected area.

Internally, whauwhaupaku was traditionally used for kidney and bladder issues, offering support for urinary health.

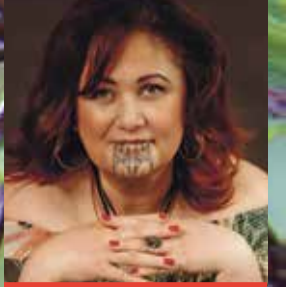
In addition, the gum of the whauwhaupaku tree, known as pia houhou, has long been used to seal and prevent leakage in vessels – a testament to the practical, yet sacred, uses of this plant.

I encourage you to seek out whauwhaupaku during its flowering period. Take a moment to marvel at the deep burgundy star clusters that adorn its branches, especially during this auspicious time of year. Rise early, observe the appearance of Puanga to the east as it ascends into the sky, and make a sacred connection between this plant and the planet. In doing so, you'll deepen your relationship with the rhythms of nature, allowing te taiao (the natural world) to impart its wisdom. Te taiao is always guiding us, providing the mātauranga (knowledge) we need to support our own growth and healing.



Blooming with the stars

RONGOĀ



JOANNE HAKARAIA

Joanne is kaitohu (director) of The Rongoā Mauri Studio and is ACC registered for Rongoā Māori Services. See rongoamauri.com




Hi! Mate
Café & Restaurant

The best of Korean and Western fusion
Takeaway • Dine in • Reservations

Open 9am-4pm
Wednesday-Sunday

50 Riverbank Rd, Ōtaki
021 178 2449
himatecafe.nz@gmail.com

HAMMER
HARDWARE

It's your local

OPEN 7 DAYS
FREE local delivery

06 364 8389

Titoki Street, Ōtaki 5512

www.hammerhardware.co.nz

Hebe Botanicals
Science based natural products



MADE HERE IN ŌTAKI.
Phyto-cannabinoid serum for arthritis and neuropathic pain.
See our website for the amazing customer feedback on this product.
Come and visit our outlet shop to see our range of beauty and health products, made right here in Ōtaki.

34 Riverbank Road, Ōtaki • 06 364 6690
fb.com/hebebotanicals www.hebebotanicals.co.nz

Order an Ōtaki street name T!

\$30 plus p+p
ADULTS sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL, 5XL
white or black Ts
Children's sizes: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12



Ōtaki street names - every street included

kids T only \$25

ORDER your Ts at
e: debbi@idmedia.co.nz
or text 027 285 4720

Ōtaki Yesterday

Ōtaki's historical magazine is now available, featuring interesting stories about the people and places of old Ōtaki.

All issues available
\$25/copy + p&p.

Contact
debbi@idmedia.co.nz
or text 027 285 4720




dice fairtrade organic coffee

06 364 5472

- Hot soup • Thursdays' Boil Up • Wednesdays' hot meat sandwiches
- Paninis, sandwiches, toasted wraps/sandwiches
- Gourmet savouries • Smoothies, milkshakes • Emporio coffee
- Variety of vegetarian and keto options
- REAL FRUIT ICE CREAMS

200 State Highway 1, Ōtaki

freshly baked pies daily • filled rolls, sandwiches • cream doughnuts • great variety of cakes • bread and pizza bread

OZ'S BAKERY
06 364 5468

PAKIHI/Business

Tap and go – no charge, thank you

From May 2026, New Zealanders will be able to tap their card or phone without being charged sometimes hidden surcharges.

An amendment to the Retail Payment System Act will put an end to excessive, hidden and unavoidable surcharges, which cost New Zealanders an estimated \$65 million a year.

Jessica Walker, acting head of research and advocacy at Consumer NZ, is thrilled to see surcharges scrapped because it will put millions back into the pockets of New Zealanders, and

make accepting payments much simpler for merchants, too.

“We’ve received close to 300 complaints about excessive surcharges (over 2 percent) in the last few years. In some cases, card payment surcharges were as high as 25 percent. We’ve even had complaints about surcharges being applied to Eftpos transactions.

“We’ve been calling for surcharge regulation since 2017 and recently urged the Commerce Commission to consider an outright ban. Although surcharge guidelines were in place, they clearly weren’t working.”

Jessica says the whole surcharge situation in New Zealand is a mess. Surcharges for debit and credit cards are banned in the United Kingdom and European Union, and the Reserve Bank of Australia recently proposed a surcharge ban – “so this brings us nicely in line with other countries”.

The ban will apply only to debit, Eftpos, Visa and Mastercard payments, so if you’re paying with another card, such as an Amex or a foreign-issued card, you might still have to pay a surcharge. The ban also won’t apply to prepaid gift cards.

Online payments are excluded, disappointing Consumer because flight or accommodation bookings or any other online purchases could still attract a surcharge.

Australia is considering making online payments part of its surcharge ban.

Consumer says the cost of a coffee shouldn’t increase much, if at all. If merchants choose to increase their prices to cover their payment costs, any increase should be very minimal because interchange is being lowered which will reduce the cost to businesses of accepting payments.

Trust your life – and bank account – with EPOAs

If you had an accident tomorrow, who makes your decisions for you? A lot of us hope that family would step in, but who is legally allowed to?

Without the proper legal documents, it’s not as straightforward as you might think. That’s when an Enduring Powers of Attorney (EPOA) comes in.

What is an EPOA?

An EPOA is a legal document that allows you to appoint any person or persons to make decisions for you, if or when you lose the capacity to do so. Whether or not someone has lost “capacity” is something that a medical professional assesses and decides on.

In short, an EPOA is only effective while you are alive, and ensures your most trusted people can make decisions on your

MATTERS OF LAW



KATHREENA PEDREALBA-TUME

behalf when you can’t.

There are two types of EPOAs that one person can have:

1. Personal Care and Welfare

This EPOA kicks in if you lose the mental capacity to make decisions regarding your own health, wellbeing and overall living decisions.

2. Property

This EPOA covers all matters regarding your property and assets, including your bank account, your home, your possessions, debts and other financial dealings. You can choose when this EPOA becomes effective, either immediately or if capacity is lost.

But I’m healthy as a horse and I want to stay independent!

EPOAs are not just for the elderly or the ill. It’s for your peace of mind. Strange accidents, unexpected illnesses or a decline in

mental capacity could happen any time. You want to ensure that someone has got your back when that happens. EPOAs are best put in place when you are at your best, so you know you will be taken care of when you aren’t.

How do I choose?

Choosing the right person/s may be the most challenging part of an EPOA. It can be anyone who you would trust to make these decisions for you and would be willing to act for you. It’s a big responsibility so make sure to talk it through with the person/s you have in mind.

What now?

Setting up an EPOA means giving yourself peace of mind knowing that the people you trust will be the ones making decisions for you if you no longer can, avoiding any unnecessary stress down the road.

■ Kathreena is a solicitor for Wakefields Lawyers.

Here to work with you!

We offer personalised accounting services tailored to your unique business needs. From compliance to business advisory, our dedicated team is here to support your financial success.

Come visit our friendly team or call to schedule a free 30-minute consultation today!



(06) 777 6069
5 Arthur Street, Ōtaki

pgaccountants.co.nz

pg accountants
chartered accountants



◆ Heat Pumps ◆ Electrical ◆ Ventilation

SPECIAL – KĀPITI
FULL HEAT PUMP SERVICE

ONLY
\$99



Your one stop shop for electrical, ventilation and heat pumps. Certified and accredited heat pump technician in all major brands, registered electrician.

027 772 7593
allelectrical@yahoo.co.nz



ŌTAKI TE HORO BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

AGM AND NETWORKING EVENT

Tuesday 26 August 2025

Railway Hotel

Sign in from 5.15pm

Business starts at 5.30pm

- Business sales and marketing inspirations
- Networking and music
- Light refreshments provided
- NEW MEMBERS WELCOME
- RSVP to info@othba.com by 20 August 2025

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

Tough start, but determination pays off

In 1988, only months after the infamous “Black Monday” share-market crash, Richard Downer bought a business that was closing down.

He didn't know much about the operational side of Radford Chemicals, though he'd been hired as a trainee manager only six months before. He had a science degree, but majored botany, not chemistry. He had little money, so he borrowed from his grandmother.

To many, it would seem a business disaster waiting to happen.

What gran perhaps recognised was that Richard had determination; the sort that comes with relative youth (he was 27) and a belief that any barriers could be overcome.

Radford Chemicals was owned by an American chemist living and working in Australia. When he sold the business, he left Richard with a book of recipes for making cleaning products. For the first couple of years, Richard learnt on the job. He had one staff member – an “office lady”.

They hand-capped and labeled products for their business, renamed Dowco Associates Ltd – which became known to retail customers as The Soapbox.

Richard mixed chemicals, talked to suppliers and potential customers, worked late – and made no money. But at least he was paying off his gran.

The big break came when he swung a deal to supply supermarket provider Toops (now Gilmours). Richard credits that deal, and others since, partly with his time as a salesman for the Paape Brothers audio company in Wellington.

“I'm happy talking to people,” he says.

It's a trait noted by customers both he and wife Christine deal with. Their cheerfulness and apparent calmness are a hallmark of the company. There's a sense that it's not all about the business, but of enjoying the journey and taking customers along with them.

Today their Ōtaki operation has grown into one of New Zealand's leading cleaning product manufacturers.

About 15 years ago, Christine left her job as a bank manager (she was one of the last managers at ANZ Ōtaki) and joined the company. There



Christine and Richard Downer, who have built their business from humble beginnings nearly 40 years ago.

Photo Ōtaki Today

are now 13 staff in total. Christine says credit for success also has to go to the team, all locals.

“We couldn't do it without them,” she says. “It's a very stable team.”

She says the company strives to exceed customer expectations, continually improve, and “provide a happy, productive environment where people can thrive”.

Soapbox's original home was at 10 Riverbank Road. There have been several moves since, including a stint at the highway shops next to New World. They're now at 62 Riverbank Road, in a modern, 1800-square-metre facility, producing more than 3-4 million litres of cleaning products every year.

At the front of the plant is the Soapbox outlet store, where customers come from throughout the region to stock up on their cleaning supplies.

With a range that includes dishwash liquids, disinfectants, eco-friendly citrus cleaners, window sprays, laundry detergent, and more,

Soapbox's manufacturing excellence is already well proven.

Their in-house brands, Lotus and Kleen Away, demonstrate the company's wide capabilities and quality control.

The Lotus range has premium and budget cleaning products that deliver professional results, including:

- germ-killing disinfectants (kills 99.9 percent of germs)
- laundry detergents and softeners
- oven and grill cleaner, shower and toilet cleaners
- foaming and flowing hand soaps, instant hand sanitiser
- eco cleaners made from plant-based surfactants.


The Kleen Away products are outdoor essentials. The powerful, bleach-free moss, mould, lichen and algae remover connects straight to a hose and one bottle covers up to

345sq m. Results can often be seen within 1-2 weeks. It's safe, effective, and easy to use.

The Soapbox team also helps other companies in the cleaning business – whether a start-up looking to develop a new product or a large company needing contract filling and packaging. They take care of:

- product development and formulation
- label and packaging design
- raw materials and supply chain logistics
- bottle and bulk filling (from 250ml to 1000L bailey tanks)
- custom manufacturing to customer specs.

■ The Soapbox factory outlet is at 62 Riverbank Road, Ōtaki. Stock up on everyday cleaning essentials and explore the full range at factory-direct prices. Open Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm and Friday 9am-3pm. Or order online at: soapboxshop.co.nz. Call: 06 364 5767. Email: admin@dowco.co.nz


info@landmatters.nz
landmatters.nz


Innovative property, community and environmental solutions

EXPERTS IN

- Resource Consents
- Land Surveying
- Civil Engineering
- Property Management
- Project Management

- Iwi Advisory
- Landscape Architecture
- Public Works Act Advisory
- Infrastructure Advisory
- Environmental Monitoring

- Urban Regeneration
- Construction Management
- Drone Surveys
- Forestry Harvest Plans
- Property Advisory



HĪTŌRIA/History

Brandon first mayor

James Poole Brandon came to Ōtaki in 1919, buying what was to be called Brandon Villa at 98 Waerenga Road on December 19 of that year.

His uncle was Alfred de Bathe Brandon, lawyer and Member of Parliament for Ōtaki (1858-1870). His father was Sydney Griffiths Brandon, who in 1857 married Anna Maria Poole. James was their third child and second son, born on July 3, 1861. On April 9, 1885, James married Evangeline Fitzgerald in Christchurch. They had seven children, though one died as a baby.

Evangeline was the daughter of James Edward Fitzgerald and Frances (Fanny) Erskine Draper. James Fitzgerald was the first Superintendent of Canterbury Province, and a member of the Executive Council. He was a Member of Parliament and moved to Wellington in 1867.



James Poole Brandon was educated at Wellington College and after law and insurance experience worked at the Colonial Bank in Palmerston North. In 1895 he moved to the Masterton BNZ. In 1898 he managed stock and station agents John Mowlem & Co in Masterton. Then in Wellington he helped form the Fresh Food & Ice Co that had a creamery at Te Horo.

James retired to Ōtaki in 1919. He was the last chairman of the Ōtaki Town Board and first mayor of the Ōtaki Borough Council, from 1921-1929, and was on the Mount Hector Track Committee, the Ōtaki Brass Band Committee, and the Surf Life Saving Club.

By the time James and Evangeline moved to Waerenga Road, most of their children were grown up and married, though their two younger daughters were not, and some grandchildren were to live with them, in particular Vincent and Mary Freeman, orphaned children of Douglas and Rona Freeman, nee Brandon. James and Evangeline's third daughter, Ruhina (Ina) Mason and her son Robert also lived there after Ina was divorced. Tragically, when Bobby was 6, in 1928, he fell off his bike and cut his leg. Ina took him to the doctor but he died in the waiting room. The two daughters who married while the family lived at Brandon Villa were Ida May (Maida), who married Guy Mander in 1927; and youngest daughter Sydney, who married Herbert de Jersey Clere, son of noted architect Frederick de Jersey Clere.

Both James and Evangeline died in 1937.

Challenges for the council of 1921

In doing research for Ōtaki Museum's exhibition about Ōtaki township, I came across an article by Douglas Olson in the 1995 edition of the Ōtaki Historical Journal titled "The Waters Under the Earth – The Ōtaki Sewerage Disaster 1921-1927".

In view of the discussions today about the largely financially based challenges facing councils with maintaining and providing vital infrastructure, it provides some insights from the past.

On January 12, 1921, a poll was taken on a proposal to constitute a borough within an area fixed by a commission. The valid votes cast were 291 for the proposal and 117 against it. Consequently, the Borough of Ōtaki was constituted on March 1, 1921, and a borough council was elected, replacing the Ōtaki Town Board. The first mayor was James Brandon, who had retired to Ōtaki in 1919.



Among the most urgent tasks facing the new council was the construction of water supply and sewerage systems. An initial report on the sewerage system was presented to the council in September, followed the next month by an amended proposal. On December 21 the council obtained authority by vote of the ratepayers to raise the sum of £14,000 for the sewerage system.

It wasn't until September 1922 that the council managed to arrange the required loan, enabling initial tenders for the project to be accepted in February 1923. However, by September little progress had been made, and the council considered and agreed to take a new approach; three councillors resigning in response.

Through 2024, the council continued to try and determine the project costs, while at the same time approving expenditure for some equipment and work, dealing with in-house doubts about the practicality of the scheme, and managing rising ratepayer frustrations. By 1925, dissension in the council had worsened, and it was not helped by the election of a new council on April 1, with James Brandon being re-elected mayor.

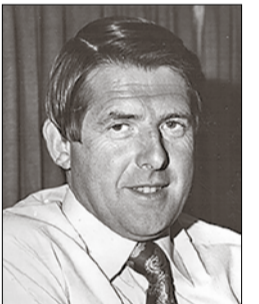
In May the council's Works Committee recommended the project be closed. It was, however, not until October that the sewerage scheme was at an end.

In early 1928, the Department of Internal Affairs

and the Valuation Department identified Ōtaki as a case typifying inequities in borough rating systems – particularly in places containing significant farmland unsuited to residential rates. To leverage off this so that nationwide opportunities in this area of council responsibilities could be identified, a Commission of Inquiry was established to look into "certain matters affecting the borough of Ōtaki and lands adjacent thereto". The sewerage scheme became part of it.

The commission concluded that, "It will be clear from a perusal of the evidence that in the very year the borough was constituted, the borough council embarked by way of special loans upon costly and ill-conceived schemes for waterworks and sewerage, far in excess of the borough's requirements . . . By this time (1925) £11,500 of the £14,000 loan had been expended. It will be noted that some £3000 was absolutely wasted in the Te Rauparaha Street section of the work, that the scheme is at present incomplete, and that it has never been in any measure operative. The great, and to some extent useless, cost and the present pathetic position, of the sewerage scheme will be more fully considered. . . ."

After another 50 years, with the election of Murray Scott (pictured right) as mayor in 1976, the first stage of a sewerage scheme for Ōtaki was commissioned in 1978.

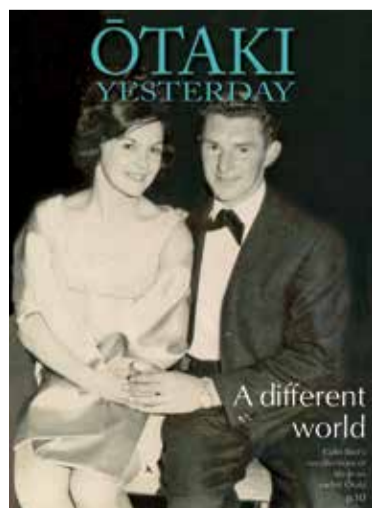
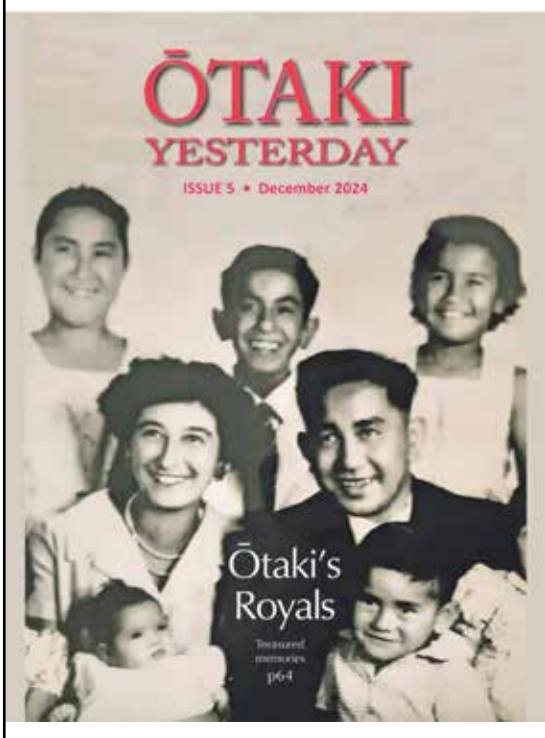


As delayed as this was, the *Te Ara Encyclopedia of New Zealand* website records: In some settlements without sewers, the night-soil system hung on for decades. Bluff residents had a night-soil collection until the mid-1960s. Kāinga in North Canterbury is reputed to be the last place that had a night cart – in 1986. Even in Auckland, the country's largest city, a few isolated houses still used buckets until 1969, when a century of night-soil collection ended with little fanfare.

■ David is chair of Ōtaki Heritage

The 2024 issue of *Ōtaki Yesterday*, featuring more stories about the people and places of old Ōtaki, is another historical publication produced by Ōtaki's ID Media. To buy a copy as a special gift, or just for yourself, contact Debbi debbi@idmedia.co.nz or text **027 285 4720**.

Copies (including previous issues as below) \$25 each.



ŌTAKI SCHOOL 1964

Compiled by Debbi Carson



Last month's photo
ŌTAKI SCHOOL, 1964 (A class of 6-7 year-olds – can you identify anyone?) Teacher unknown.
 Back row, from left: unknown, Steven Mathie, unknown, unknown, Gavin Sims, Brian Young, Peter Tse.
 Row 2: Terama (aka Patrick) Winterburn, unknown, John Gerrard, unknown, Paul Hawea, Derek Case, Jeffrey Edhouse, unknown, unknown.
 Front sitting: unknown, unknown, unknown, Ida Rauhihi, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown.

Photo courtesy of Gavin Case

ŌTAKI SCHOOL teacher Mr D T Panapa leads a group of Ōtaki School pupils in a Māori action song outside a school building. Photographed 3 November 1971 by an unidentified *Evening Post* staff photographer.

Photographic negatives and prints of the Evening Post and Dominion newspapers. Ref: EP/1971/5473/19. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/23191367

WHY, WHO, WHEN, WHAT? DO YOU KNOW THE HISTORY BEHIND YOUR STREET NAME?

Atkinson Avenue, taki is named after Tudor Atkinson (1858-1926).

The photo at right of the Atkinson family was taken at their home on Rangioru Road, near Ōtaki Beach on April 15, 1898. The group includes Tudor and Alla Atkinson (Ann Elizabeth Richmond), with their children Hal, 2, Mary, 6, and Esmond, 9, a Mrs Richmond and Mrs Atkinson.

Edmund Tudor Atkinson was the son of Amelia Jane Skinner and Sir Harry Atkinson, who was a politician from 1857 and Premier four times before his death in 1892.

Tudor practised law in Ōtaki in the 1890s, and opened up the resort area known as Rangioru-by-the-Sea and the Te Manuao Block. He also transported a hotel from Manakau to become Rangioru House, a boarding house. This was still operating in the 1920s.

Photo: Ōtaki Heritage



80 years since VJ Day

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

August 15, 2025, marks the 80th anniversary of VJ (Victory in Japan) Day, and the official end of the Second World War.

In recognition of this milestone, Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision, working with sound history researcher Sarah Johnston, has digitised and uploaded 200 audio recordings made in Japan immediately after the war.

The speakers in this unique set of recordings were all from J Force, a mostly volunteer force of New Zealanders who were stationed as servicemen and nurses in Japan. They served alongside people from other Allied countries.

While they were there, a radio programme called *With the Kiwis in Japan* was recorded on lacquer discs by a mobile broadcasting unit. The discs cover a lot of subjects, from greetings home in English and te reo Māori to observations of Japanese daily life and descriptions of the devastation at Hiroshima.

Eighty years later, they have been digitised by Ngā Taonga so the public can listen online. Visit ngataonga.org.nz and search "J Force".

RIGHT: Senior J Force chaplain Harry Taylor shakes hands with Māori of the 2nd Battalion as they depart for home. The photo was taken at Ozuki railway station for the MV Westralia at Kure for NZ". Photograph taken between 1946 and 1948 by a New Zealand Army photographer.



TAMARIKI FUN



Potato top wins best pie

What's your favourite pie? A potato top pie made by Rosedale Bakery & Café in Albany, Auckland, has won the title of New Zealand's best pie for 2025. Owner and baker Samraksmei So created the dish, which is only the second potato top pie ever to win this award. Unlike a regular potato pie, Samraksmei's version features two potato layers – a crispy, swirled potato top and a middle made from soft, buttery, French-style potatoes. The slices are fried with garlic, rosemary, and butter, then baked inside the pie for a golden finish. Samraksmei said the key to success is using top-quality ingredients from the mince to the pastry. He spent a year perfecting his recipe after earning a "highly commended" award last year. Judge chef Nici Wickes praised the pie as a clear winner, calling it surprising and creative. Samraksmei now plans to try a new pie idea for the 2026 competition. Rosedale Bakery isn't new to awards. In 2023, they won silver for their mince and cheese pie and were named best sausage roll makers in the country.



MATCH-A-SPIDER

Did you know there are around 2000 species of spiders in Aotearoa, with just over 1000 scientifically studied. Over 90% of New Zealand spiders are endemic, the rest have been blown here by the wind, or been introduced through human activities. Go to kcc.org.nz to play match the spiders game – it will tell you what species they are!

WORD MAKER

Can you make 130 words from FRIENDS? Answers below.

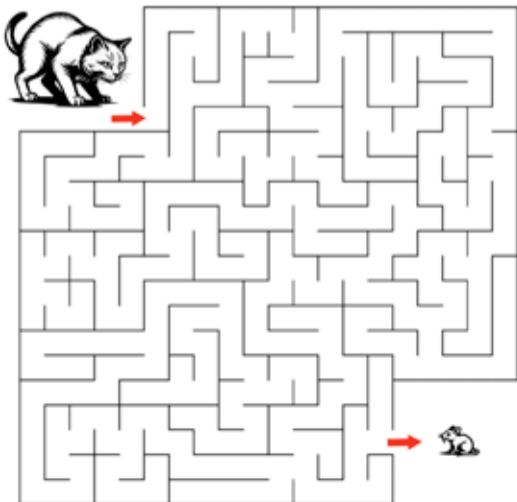
Te Papa top 1% world attractions

New Zealand's national museum in Wellington, Te Papa has been ranked among the top 1% of attractions in the world, according to the 2025 TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Awards. It was also named the best attraction in New Zealand and the fifth best in the South Pacific. This global recognition is based on glowing reviews from visitors. Te Papa holds a 4.7 out of 5-star rating, with more than 11,000 five-star reviews from 14,000+ total. Many visitors praised its Māori treasures, the Gallipoli war exhibition, and the Te Taiao Nature zone. A \$35 entry charge for international visitors 16 and over introduced last year, has not been a deterrent. Entry is free for New Zealanders. Last year, 1 million plus visited Te Papa, 430,000 from overseas, mainly from Australia, the UK, the USA, Germany, and France.



CADE'S

FIND THE MOUSE



HOW TO MAKE A SIMPLE OBSTACLE COURSE AT HOME

- Balance beam from a board or just a rope on the ground
 - Throw balls into a basket, or through a hoop or through steps of a ladder
 - Cones. to mark the course, run around these
 - Water guns hitting a target
 - A post to throw rings over
 - Hopscotch drawn on a driveway or sidewalk
 - A ladder laid down on the ground to step through (wooden)
 - Pool noodles, so many possibilities, lay on ground, make circles, etc
 - Use pallets to make various obstacles to climb over, etc
 - Tyres
 - Tunnels (cardboard boxes)
- Any kind of ball, bean bags, skipping rope, hoops . . .
- For more great ideas go to welcometonanas.com/kids-obstacle-course-adventure/



Man's best friend

Many dog owners believe their pet can sense their moods, and they are correct. Scientists say dogs have developed a special ability to understand humans over 1000s of years of living together. Dogs' brains are wired to react to our voices, especially when we laugh, cry, or raise our voices in anger. Brain scans show that dogs use parts of their brain, similar to humans, to process these sounds. When you speak, your dog isn't just hearing noise, it's picking up on your feelings. Dogs are also experts at reading faces. Just like humans, they pay attention to expressions and even seem to enjoy seeing a familiar face. When they see someone they know, the parts of their brain linked to happiness light up. Scientists believe dogs became this way through evolution. Like in a famous fox experiment, animals bred to be friendly developed brain areas that helped them bond with humans. Dogs, once wild like wolves, may have changed in similar ways to become our best friends.



CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS DISCO

Shining Bright for Our Brave Little Stars ★



Entry Fee: Koha

DATE: FRIDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER 2025

VENUE: MEMORIAL HALL, ŌTAKI

TIME: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Disco Fun for the Whole Whānau!

CANDY FLOSS RAFFLES & GIVEAWAYS
SAUSAGE SIZZLE GREAT MUSIC & DANCING

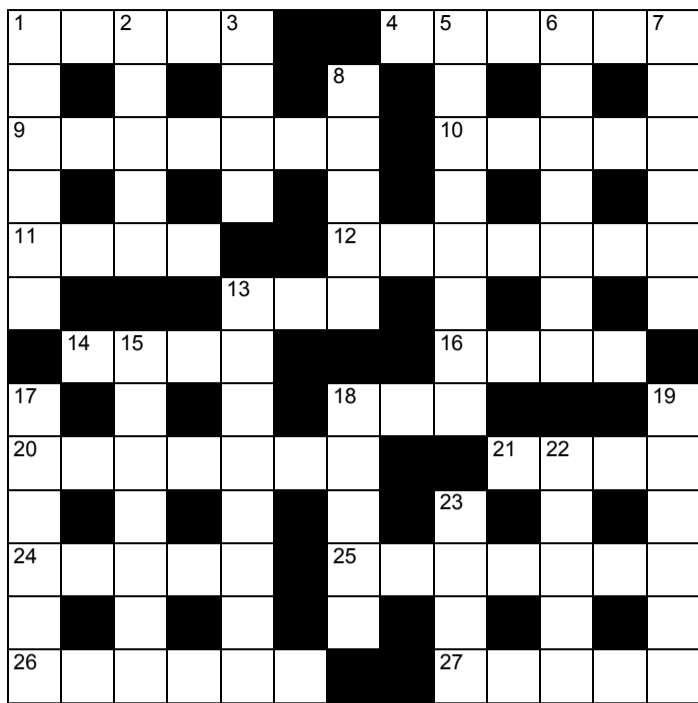
Supporting a Great Cause

Rare Disease Awareness Brain Tumour Support NZ Childhood Cancer Awareness

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

7-letter words: 1. finders 2. redfins 3. rehnds 6-letter words: 4. fends 5. finder. 6. friend 7. redfin 8. rehd 9. infer 10. dines 11. rined 12. snider 5-letter words: 13. defis 14. fends 15. hend 16. finds 17. fined 18. fired 19. fied 20. ferns 21. finer 22. fins 23. firs 24. firms 25. fries 26. frise 27. infer 28. neifs 29. reffs 30. seff 31. diner 32. dines 33. dres 34. neds 35. nides 36. rends 37. resid 38. rides 39. rinds 40. sired 41. snide 42. reins 43. resin 44. rine 45. risen 46. serin 47. siren 4-letter words: 48. def 49. difs 50. feds 51. fend 52. fids 53. find 54. fens 55. fern 56. fine 57. firs 58. fire 59. firm 60. firs 61. neif 62. refs 63. reff 64. rife 65. rifs 66. seff 67. seff 68. deni 69. dens 70. dest 71. dese 72. dine 73. dins 74. dire 75. ends 76. ides 77. ined 78. nerd 79. nide 80. neds 81. rend 82. ride 83. rids 84. rind 85. send 86. side 87. sned 88. erns 89. res 90. reff 91. rids 92. rine 93. rise 94. sine 95. sire. 3-letter words: 96. def 97. diff 99. fed 99. fid 100. efs 101. fen 102. fer 103. fes 104. fe 105. fin 106. fir 107. ffs 108. ref 109. rff 110. den 111. die 112. din 113. dis 114. eds 115. end 116. ids 117. red 118. rid 119. ens 120. ern 121. ers 122. ins 123. ire 124. rei 125. res 126. rin 127. set 120. sen. 2-letter words: 121. ed 122. id 123. en 124. er 125. es 126. in 127. is 128. ne 129. re 130. si.

THE CROSSWORD #1949E (answers below right)

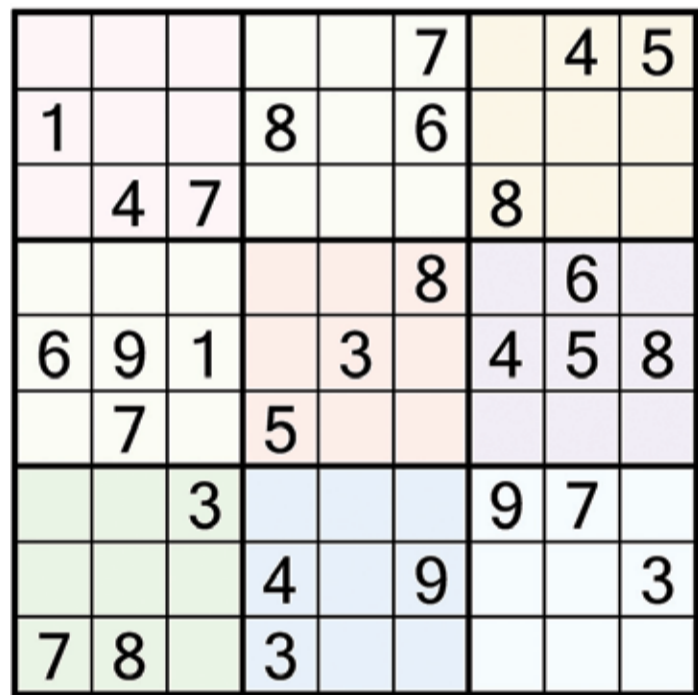


ACROSS

- 1. Formerly popular beer receptacle (5)
- 4. Periods of excessive indulgence (6)
- 9. Auckland hotel used as Covid quarantine centre (3,4)
- 10. Judicial hearing (5)
- 11. Fishing bait (4)
- 12. Destructive weather event becoming more frequent in New Zealand (7)
- 13. Sheep (3)
- 14. Comply (4)
- 16. Level (4)
- 18. Marijuana (colloq) (3)
- 20. Spray in a can (7)
- 21. Water (L) (4)
- 24. Smarted (5)
- 25. Ships barred from NZ waters (7)

- 26. Māori MP who was Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2020 to 2023 (6)
 - 27. Choose (5)
- DOWN
- 1. Sweet-talk (6)
 - 2. Thespian (5)
 - 3. Style, flair (4)
 - 5. The world wide web (8)
 - 6. Make a face (7)
 - 7. Fish farmed in New Zealand (6)
 - 8. Show off (5)
 - 13. Vision (8)
 - 15. Former title of many NZ councils (7)
 - 17. Kidnap payment (6)
 - 18. Cheap wine (colloq) (5)
 - 19. Symbol associated with Ohakune (6)
 - 22. Line (5)
 - 23. Dull pain (4)

SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz
EASY #94E 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 BELOW.



CROSSWORD #1949E ACROSS: 1. Crate, 4. Binges, 9. Jet Park, 10. Trial, 11. Lure, 12. Tornado, 13. Ewe, 14. Obey, 16. Even, 18. Pot, 20. Aerosol, 21. Aqua, 24. Stung, 25. Nuclear, 26. Mahuta, 27. Elect. **DOWN:** 1. Cajole, 2. Actor, 3. Elan, 5. Internet, 6. Grimace, 7. Salmon, 8. Skite, 13. Eyesight, 15. Borough, 17. Ransom, 18. Plonk, 19. Carrot, 22. Queue, 23. Ache.

“Agree to disagree” is reserved for things like. “I don’t like coffee”.
NOT racism, homophobia, sexism.
NOT basic common decency.
NOT human rights.
NOT the right to be treated equally regardless of race, religion, colour, creed, or sexual orientation.
We do not have a difference of opinion.
We have a difference in morality.

Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.
- Corinthians 1:53

FOODIE QUIZ ANSWERS
 1. Prunes 2. Venison 3. Maize 4. Chickpeas 5. Brazil 6. China 7. Paella 8. Germany 9. Rice noodles 10. Tiramisu 11. Battered and fried seafood or vegetables 12. Coca-Cola 13. Switzerland 14. Soup 15. Jordan 16. Entomophagy 17 Greece 18. Water buffalo 19 Goulash 20. Pickle.

SUDOKU SOLUTION #94E

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

FOODIE QUIZ
 Answers on page 23.

1. What is the common name for dried plums?
2. What name does deer meat go by?
3. What other name does corn go by?
4. What’s the primary ingredient in hummus?
5. Which country produces the most coffee in the world?
6. Which country invented tea?
7. What is the national dish of Spain?
8. Which European nation was said to invent hot dogs?
9. What is the main ingredient in the Vietnamese soup pho?
10. What is the name of the Italian dessert made with coffee-soaked ladyfingers and mascarpone cheese?
11. What is the primary ingredient in the popular Japanese dish tempura?
12. Which popular soft drink was originally created as a medicine in the 19th century?
13. Which country is famous for its chocolate and is home to brands like Lindt and Toblerone?
14. What is borscht?
15. Msakhan and mansaf are the most popular dishes of which country?
16. What is the consumption of insects by humans called?
17. The dish saganaki is from which country?
18. The authentic Italian version of mozzarella is prepared from the milk of which animal?
19. Which Hungarian stew made with meat and onions and eaten by Magyar shepherds has been traced to the 9th-century?
20. Kimchi, commonly used in Korean meals, is a type of what?



Ōtaki River entrance tides
August 13 - September 12
<https://www.metservice.com/marine/regions/kapiti-wellington/tides/locations/otaki-river-entrance>
 Please note: The actual timing of high and low tide might differ from that provided here. Times are extrapolated from the nearest primary port for this location, so please take care.

	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
WED 13 AUG	00:08	06:24	12:34	18:39	-
THU 14 AUG	00:51	07:07	13:18	19:25	-
FRI 15 AUG	01:37	07:54	14:07	20:17	-
SAT 16 AUG	02:30	08:47	15:04	21:18	-
SUN 17 AUG	03:30	09:48	16:13	22:31	-
MON 18 AUG	04:42	11:01	17:36	23:51	-
TUE 19 AUG	06:01	12:21	18:56	-	-
WED 20 AUG	-	01:05	07:18	13:34	20:00
THU 21 AUG	-	02:07	08:21	14:31	20:52
FRI 22 AUG	-	02:58	09:13	15:19	21:35
SAT 23 AUG	-	03:43	09:56	16:00	22:14
SUN 24 AUG	-	04:23	10:35	16:38	22:50
MON 25 AUG	-	05:00	11:10	17:13	23:24
TUE 26 AUG	-	05:35	11:42	17:47	23:56
WED 27 AUG	-	06:09	12:15	18:20	-
THU 28 AUG	00:29	06:43	12:47	18:54	-
FRI 29 AUG	01:04	07:17	13:23	19:31	-
SAT 30 AUG	01:43	07:56	14:05	20:16	-
SUN 31 AUG	02:29	08:42	14:58	21:14	-
MON 1 SEP	03:29	09:41	16:09	22:30	-
TUE 2 SEP	04:41	10:56	17:34	23:52	-
WED 3 SEP	06:00	12:17	18:48	-	-
THU 4 SEP	-	01:00	07:09	13:22	19:43
FRI 5 SEP	-	01:52	08:02	14:11	20:26
SAT 6 SEP	-	02:35	08:47	14:53	21:05
SUN 7 SEP	-	03:15	09:28	15:32	21:43
MON 8 SEP	-	03:55	10:07	16:12	22:22
TUE 9 SEP	-	04:35	10:47	16:51	23:01
WED 10 SEP	-	05:16	11:27	17:33	23:43
THU 11 SEP	-	05:58	12:09	18:17	-
FRI 12 SEP	00:27	06:43	12:54	19:05	-

CLASSIFIEDS

ANTI ANTS

UNWANTED ANTS ARE OUR SPECIALTY!
 Our treatments are guaranteed odourless and stain free. We also have solutions to control wasps, flies, spiders, cockroaches, mosquitoes, silverfish, moths, plus rats and mice

PROTEKT PEST CONTROL
 phone PAUL 06 364 5759 or 027 448 3910
 or Wellington 04 472 9948

CLASSIFIEDS

HOROWHENUA FREEMASONS

Are you interested?

PHONE 021 0835 5308

ELECTION ADVERTISING
 If you’ve decided to stand for a council or community board position, advertise in the September issue of Ōtaki Today. The Ōtaki district has a significant voting bloc that can’t be ignored.

Contact Debbi:
 027 285 4729
 or debbi@idmedia.co.nz

DEATH NOTICES

COLIN MOYLE BIRD
 6.4.36 - 26.7.25
 Loved husband of Margaret; father and father-in-law of Debbi and Ian, Kevin and Alison, Grant and Sally-Anne; grandfather of Jared, Lara, Samuel, Joshua, Tom and William; great grandfather of Kyuss, Cade, Korra, Liam, Evan, Isobel, and Kove. The family thanks Palmerston North Hospital and Madison Levin staff for the wonderful care they took of Colin during the 18 months of his illness.
Rest in peace now, we love you.

BEVERLEY (BEV) FORBES
 It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Bev, who passed away peacefully on 23 July 2025, surrounded by family. She was a very much loved Mum, Gran, Great Gran and Friend. A service to celebrate Bev’s life was held at Rangiatea Church, Te Rauparaha Street, Ōtaki, on Tuesday 29 July.

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONE IN A FAMILY NOTICE
 Contact: 027 285 4729 debbi@idmedia.co.nz

TAKĀRO/Sport

Football teams finish on top

Ōtaki's senior men's and women's football teams have won their respective competitions this season, continuing a run of senior football success over the past couple of years.

Ōtaki Purutaitama won the 2025 men's Horowhenua-Kāpiti Division 1 League with a week to spare and ended the regular season with 11 wins, one draw and two losses.

The team will be now be looking for a successive Horowhenua-Kāpiti Cup title after winning it in 2024. The team's first match in the knock-out competition is August 16.

Ōtaki Kāeaea won the 2025 women's Wellington Capital 2 League earlier in the season, and were promoted to Capital 1 for the second half of the season.

In Capital 2, the team had eight wins and one loss, and in a tight competition won by a narrow margin over two Victoria University teams with the rest of the 12-team competition some distance back.

In Capital 1, the step-up in quality is high and Ōtaki Kāeaea are currently 7th in an eight-team competition, fighting hard each week against well-resourced Wellington clubs.

The 2025 successes for the two Ōtaki Sports Club

teams come on the back of repeat winning performances that are establishing the club as a leader in Kāpiti football, despite having significantly fewer teams and players than the larger clubs down the coast.

In 2024, Ōtaki Purutaitama were second in the Horowhenua-Kāpiti Division 1 League and won the season-ending Horowhenua-Kāpiti Cup.

In 2023, Ōtaki Purutaitama won the Horowhenua-Kāpiti Division 1 League.

Ōtaki Kāeaea also won the women's Wellington Capital 2 League in 2023 and won a short-lived promotion to Capital 1 before dropping back to Capital 2 for the 2024 season.



Fergus Roy of Ōtaki Purutaitama fights for possession as Manakau Hui Mai's Tainui Baker makes a kick. Ōtaki's Chris Hawley-Stone is in the background. Photo Frank Neill

A hundred years coming up for Ōtaki Sports Club

Next month, Ōtaki Sports Club celebrates the 100-year anniversary of the club's founding document, and is inviting past members and community supporters to join in.

While the club was formed in 1991, its legal entity uses a 1925 incorporated society certificate from the former Ōtaki Lawn Tennis Club.

A 100th birthday party is being held on Friday, September 12, followed by a fun adult and child doubles tennis event on the Saturday, September 13.

The centenary comes amid two other milestone anniversaries for the club. Last year, football celebrated its 50th season in Ōtaki; and next year, Ōtaki squash celebrates its 50th season. Ōtaki Sports Club tennis club captain and centenary

organiser Adam Shelton says it's great to see the club's facilities at Haruātai Park full of life year after year, and still playing a key role in the wellbeing of the community on the back of such a storied history.

For details of the events, see otakisportsclub.co.nz/weekend-of-the-century
Bookings close at the end of August.

Super Gold Card TUESDAYS



Receive 5% off your total grocery bill when you spend \$40 or more in-store*

Exclusive to



Otaki

*Offer valid for gold card holders only, card must be presented to redeem discount. Product exclusions, terms and conditions apply.

New World Otaki

Proud to support our local community

Open 7 days, 7:00am - 9:00pm
155/163 Main Highway, Ōtaki



Otaki