

# ŌTAKI TODAY

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HEPETEMA/SEPTEMBER 2025

Ngā kōrero o Ōtaki

Put your clocks forward by an hour before 2am on Sunday, September 28, because that's when Daylight Time begins. We're back to Standard Time on Sunday, April 5, next year.



**Clocks go forward Sept 28**

**WHAT THE CANDIDATES HAVE TO SAY**

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**ŌTAKI STREET SCENE**

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The two new inductees into the XŌtaki College Hall of Fame, Kathy Tracey and Lincoln Nicholls.

Photos supplied

## Two more for Hall of Fame

By Ian Carson

**Two former students of Ōtaki College have been recognised for their achievement by being inducted into the XŌtaki College Hall of Fame.**

Lincoln Nicholls and Kathy Tracey are the fourth duo honoured by the XŌtaki College Alumni Trust. They join David Pritchard and Chris Parkin (2018), Jackie Sutton and Peter Housiaux (2021), and John Barrett and former principal Rex Kerr (2023).

Both Lincoln and Tracey can claim some

remarkable achievements since they walked out the gates of Ōtaki College for the last time.

Lincoln comes from a long-standing Ōtaki whānau. He has lived a life defined by leadership, service, and determination – from the sports fields of Ōtaki College to military deployments in Afghanistan and as a soon-to-be orthopaedic surgeon.

He first attended Ōtaki College in 1984, completing his final year as head boy in 1990. A natural all-rounder, he represented the school in rugby, swimming, athletics, basketball, volleyball, softball, and cricket. Those years built

the foundation for a career of commitment to both people and community.

Initially drawn to education, he completed a diploma in teaching at Palmerston North College of Education, a bachelor of education at Massey University, and later a postgraduate diploma in bilingual teaching from Te Wānanga o Raukawa. But a deeper calling led him to medicine, and in 2001 he began studying for his medical degrees at the University of Otago.

By 2003, Lincoln had joined the Army as a medical officer cadet. He went on to serve as captain and medical officer from 2009 to 2014,

including deployment to Bamyān, Afghanistan, where he provided frontline medical care as regimental medical officer.

After earning a fellowship in general practice, Lincoln turned his focus to orthopaedic surgery, completing a postgraduate diploma in surgical anatomy in 2016 and beginning advanced surgical training with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 2018. He is set to achieve a fellowship in orthopaedic surgery this month, a milestone that will cap more than a decade of surgical training.

*continues page 4*

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WHAT'S ON

**TE HORO SCHOOL FAIR, PADDY'S MART** Saturday September 13. From 11am, at 124 School Road, Te Horo. Games for all ages, bouncy castles, stalls (bric-a-brac, books, plants, crafts, cakes etc), delicious kai, entertainment, and Cow Pat Bingo – go in the draw to win \$500 cash.

**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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://toi.maorilandfilm.co.nz)

**TOTE MODERN** Ōtaki Pottery Club's gallery and workshop at Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, Te Roto Rd. Open 10am-3pm Friday to Sunday.

**OLD COURTHOUSE GALLERY** 239 Main Highway, Ōtaki. Open Thurs-Sunday: 10am-4pm. Closed Public Holidays. 027 435 0408.

**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](mailto:owpresb@xtra.co.nz)

**ŌTAKI STROKE SUPPORT GROUP & WELLNESS CENTRE:** Meets for Sit and Be Fit classes, 10am Friday mornings at Senior Citizens' Hall, Rangitira Street. All welcome.

**ŌTAKI LIBRARY – ALL SESSIONS FREE:** JP service every Monday 10.30am-12.30pm; Age Concern every 2nd Thursday 10am-noon Greypower 1st & 3rd Thursday 10.30am-1.30pm.

**CHOIRS** Let's Sing Ōtaki, Tuesdays 2-3pm, Hadfield Hall. Kāpiti Women's Choir, Mondays 1.30-3pm, Baptist Church, Te Moana Rd, Waikanae. New members welcome. Enquiries to Ann-Marie Stapp 021 492 127.

**WAIKANA BEACH INDOOR SPRING MARKET:** Second Sunday of the month. September 14, 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](mailto:probuswaikanaecentral@gmail.com)

**COMMUNITY BOARDS** The next community board meetings will scheduled after the result of the local body elections (October 11). The public is welcome at meetings. Search "meetings and agendas" at [kapiticoast.govt.nz](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz) To speak at a meeting, register by calling 04 296 4700 or 0800 486 486, or email [democracy.services@kapiticoast.govt.nz](mailto:democracy.services@kapiticoast.govt.nz)

**To list an event, contact [debbi@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:debbi@idmedia.co.nz)**

# Eyes on ship-shape KiwiRail

**Marketing and operational activities of KiwiRail with the Cook Strait ferries will be closely watched in the Beehive over coming months as the corporation prepares to take delivery of its two new ships.**

The reason is the lack of attention given efficiency aspects of KiwiRail's operations during the political furore that accompanied cancellation of one ferry shipbuilding contract and the decision to order construction of two smaller ships.

In the background, however, it has not escaped ministerial notice that rail usage on the former rail capable ferry was not at full capacity.

Between them, the two new ferries will have more than double the length of track, making generation of new rail business for interisland transport a priority if the capability provided is to be reasonably well utilised.

Rail enthusiasts point out, however, that even if the potential of the rail capability is not realised the economics still stack up because the extra space remaining can be taken up by container or other freight. But they agree that KiwiRail needs to up its marketing performance among freight forwarders and trucking companies if the greater rail freight carrying capacity is to be confirmed as a valuable asset.

From the government standpoint it is clear that the aim to ensure the interisland shipping service continues as a clear extension of State Highway 1 and the main trunk line has been confirmed by the two-ferry decision.

It sees a bonus arising from the capability of both new ships to be diverted to Lyttelton in the event of an earthquake, tsunami or other disaster putting Picton or Wellington out of service. An example of the value this provides is the prospect that should the line between Picton

and Christchurch be disabled, as happened with the Kaikoura earthquakes, the new ferries have a potential to fill the gap in the rail link.

Reports reaching the government suggest that the new ferry owner, Ferry Holdings Ltd, made its decision on the configuration of the two new ships and went to the global ship building market just in time to secure tenders for delivery under its replacement timetable.

This is because pressure on the market in Europe, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan, in particular, is intense following the decision of President Donald Trump to ban Chinese-made ships from American ports. Buyers accustomed to dealing with Chinese shipyards have switched allegiance.

While the final placement of the orders has yet to be made, the prospect exists that the New Zealand Navy, currently on the lookout for a replacement to its supply ship, HMNZS *Canterbury*, could benefit from the preparatory work done by Ferry Holdings. Capability, capacity, business record of delivery and ongoing service levels of international shipbuilders were probed prior to prices being sought.

This means that the Navy, whose ship requirement is broadly similar to that of KiwiRail's *Kaitaki*, could potentially benefit through cost savings in adding a third ship to the order Ferry Holdings will soon be placing. Delivery under its 2029-30 schedule for replacing the *Canterbury* should not be a problem.

While a degree of angst still exists in some quarters of the Beehive at the cost of cancelling the one ferry order placed by KiwiRail, the "crocodile-like" grin of Rail Minister Winston Peters comes into play when mention of the cost arises.

That is because he achieved a cheaper cancellation cost than the Treasury and other officials could obtain. He did so apparently by

identifying the value of already built componentry, such as propellers, that could be used by the Hyundai shipyard in other ships the company was building. It seems that following his talks with the shipyard chairman, a lower compensation figure was agreed that took this into account.

There are suggestions that the result would justify one of his quips, such as: "Sunshine, I wasn't born yesterday."

The ongoing silence of Internal Affairs Minister Simon Watts on water reform is baffling supporters of the government's programme. While a political hunting season is on at local body level as councillors and candidates for office vie for voters' support, critics of the government's programme have an open field on which to promote their beliefs. But just as Watts' predecessor, Nanaia Mahuta, went to ground when extensive criticism arose, the minister consistently turns down opportunities to champion the government's position.

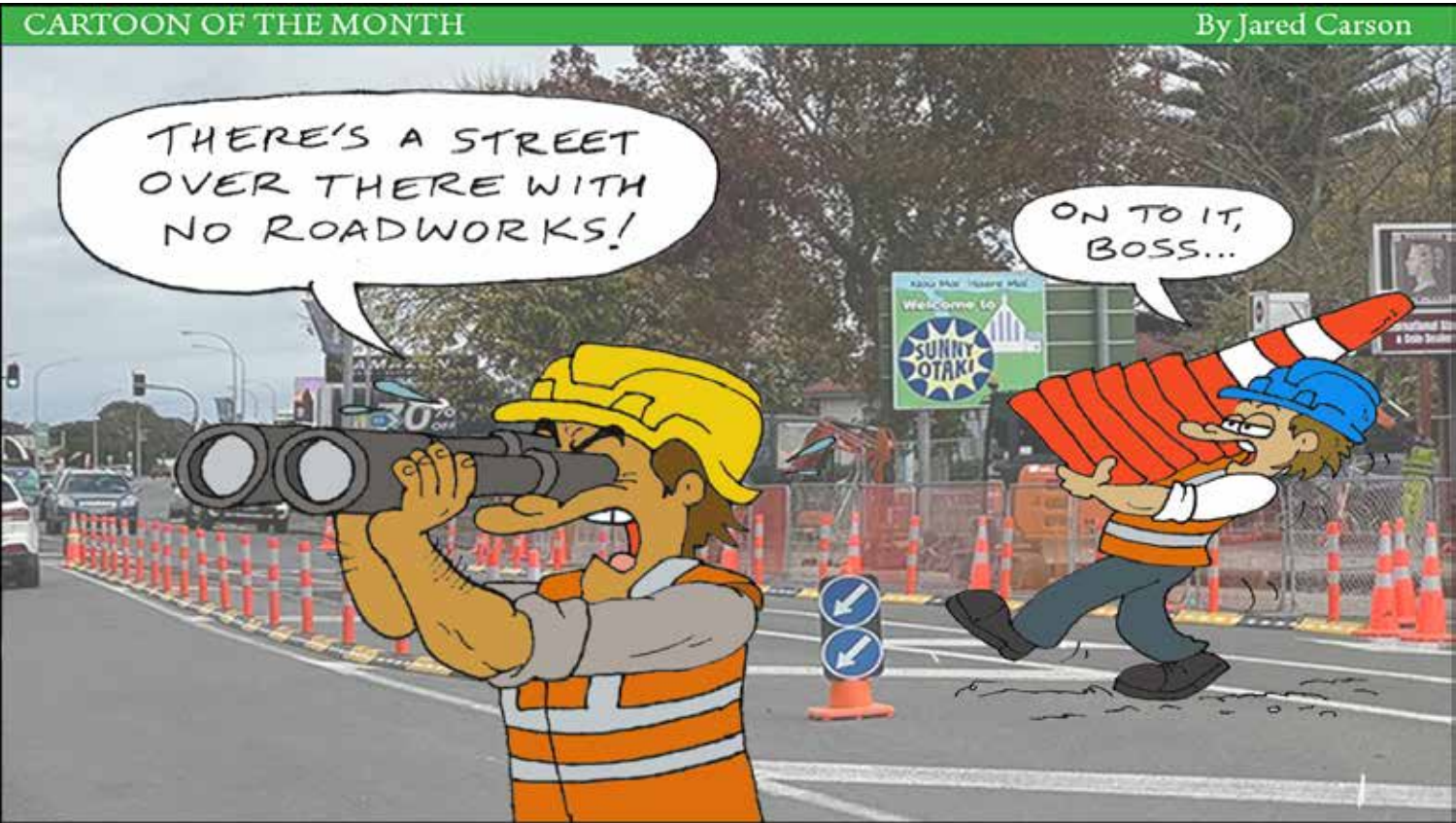
The Ōtaki-Kāpiti-Horowhenua region probably reflects more than any other in the country a significant difference between the reforms of the coalition and that of Labour-Greens in government. It is that local bodies now have the right to choose whether they amalgamate through a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) for water supply. Horowhenua is amalgamating. Kāpiti is not.

But the government in offering the reform package has a commitment to making sure its benefits are well understood. Advantages can come through access to greater borrowing power at low rates and preservation of council ownership of assets through a CCO. Supporters of the package say such understanding often falters when there is no government champion to make it clear that these are available, while leaving final decision making to councils.

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



BRUCE KOHN



## ŌTAKI TODAY *Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki*

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# Trout spawn in Winstone Lakes

By Ian Carson

**Trout spawning in one of the Winstone Lakes is an encouraging sign that the lake might soon become a haven for anglers.**

Graham Evans, chair of the Kāpiti Fly Fishing Club, says the club is about to release some 2-year-old rainbow trout into one of the smaller lake in preparation for the annual Take a Kid Fishing Weekend. The trout are released after an inlet into the large lake is blocked to raise the water level. After the weekend, the inlet is unblocked, and this is when Graham believes some of the fish that remain uncaught are moving through into the larger lake, but returning to spawn when they mature some years later..

“There’s been some maintenance work around the lakes and we are told that pipes are being occasionally clogged with fingerlings about 4 inches [10cm] long,” he says. “Those fingerlings are going to grow into bigger fish.”

Quarry work is continuing around the lakes,

but the lakes will in future become a prized recreation area for the public. They are currently used as training areas for canoe polo, waka ama and radio controlled boats. As the area is still a working quarry, the lake can’t be used as a fishery yet, but could be when Greater Wellington Regional Council gains control as planned.

The Kāpiti Fly Fishing Club has bought the new rainbow trout from a Ngogotaha hatchery, thanks to grants of \$4150 each from New Zealand Community Trust and Pub Charity.

The Take a Kid Fishing Weekend, scheduled for the weekend of

November 2-3, has been running since 2021 and it’s from those earlier releases that the spawning fish have come. At least 300 children last year tried their hand at catching the fish – for some it was the first time they picked up a rod.

With the lake well stocked, there’s a high chance they will catch a fish. All the gear is provided and experienced club members are on hand to help them, rostering groups of eight children for half an hour of fishing.

Any trout caught are gutted and bagged ready to take home.

“The kids love it,” Graham says. “They get a buzz out of catching something and then being able to take it home to cook.”

“The club’s mission is to ensure every child has the chance to experience fishing in a fun,

safe, and supportive environment.”

The Kāpiti Fly Fishing Club has more than 70 members based on the Kāpiti Coast.

The Take a Kid Fishing event has become a cherished fixture in the club’s calendar. The ripple effects of the weekend go beyond the event itself. Many parents describe it as a rare opportunity for children to step away from electronic devices and rediscover the joys of outdoors life.

Phil Teal, the chief executive of Wellington Fish & Game Council, says it’s a great opportunity for kids to get into the outdoors and connect with nature.

“While this is still not quite fishing out of a barrel, it provides an increased chance of success for their introduction to fishing.”

Registrations are required to participate in the weekend. They can be made at Hunting & Fishing Ōtaki. Registration at the event includes a fishing licence (free for children) and a certificate later confirming a catch – as well as the prize of fish for tea!



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LETTERS

Support for Sam

I've just read your front page story in (*Ōtaki Today*, August) about Sam Leason and his attempt to march to the Palestinian border in Egypt. I was very literally in tears reading it, and not just because of the appalling situation in Gaza and other nations' complicity it. It was incredibly refreshing and reassuring to see the facts of the genocide in Palestine reported in the press, not to mention on the front page. I don't know how difficult an editorial decision that was for you, but I applaud you for making it. Please, if you are able, pass on my unwavering support for Sam and his bravery. And please continue to report on his activism. The world changes for the better because of people like him. Kate Bryson, Manakau

Cherry picking information

Your science contributor Dr Steve Humphries accuses Dr Shelton of NZDSOS of "bad science" (*Ōtaki Today*, August 2025), Humphries further suggests that NZDSOS "cherry picks" information. But with all due respect the same allegations could be levelled at him. He has cherry picked a small number of references for criticism from Part 1 of the NZDSOS 375-page submission, which has cited dozens of references from many highly qualified professionals. True, some of these individuals have been officially censured or sanctioned for not following the official Covid narrative, but that doesn't make them all wrong. He also ignores Part 2 of the NZDSOS submission altogether, and he doesn't offer any "better" science; in fact none at all. He merely cites some official statistics which many thinking Kiwis must already know are woefully lacking in accuracy. His bias towards the official Covid narrative is clear, but the tide is slowly turning. The US FDA has recently withdrawn all approval for the mRNA vaccines except for those over 65 or with risk factor(s), and the CDC has stopped recommending the vaccines for healthy children and pregnant women. NZ must surely catch up. Neville Watkin, Ōtaki

Two more in XŌtaki Hall of Fame

*from front page*  
His medical career has taken him to hospitals throughout the country, including Palmerston North, Taranaki, Wellington, Whanganui, Whangārei, and Hutt Valley. Throughout, Lincoln has been driven by a passion for hauora Māori, public service, and fostering Māori achievement in health.  
Beyond medicine, he has built a life centred on family and endurance sport. In 2015, he proposed to partner Nora at the finish line of the New Zealand Ironman. They married in 2016 and are now parents to two children, Awarangi and Hauora.  
Looking back, his journey from college head boy to army medical officer and future orthopaedic surgeon is one of dedication and achievement. For Lincoln, the values instilled in his school years remain at the heart of everything he does: leadership, service, and excellence.

KATHY TRACEY

Kathy Tracey's life has been anything but ordinary. From surf lifesaving at Ōtaki Beach to becoming a Guinness World Record holder, international coach, and adventurer, her journey has spanned continents, oceans, and countless challenges.  
Her sporting career began when she joined the Ōtaki Surf Club as a teenager. Told by her coach she "swam like a brick", Kathy persisted, earned her certification, and went on to lead the lifeguard team at the beach. That determination became a hallmark of her life.  
She soon found success in surf lifesaving carnivals, competing in board and surf ski events. This pathway led to selection for the New Zealand women's flatwater canoe squad. In 1986 she represented her country at the Commonwealth Games demonstration event in Lake Placid, US, winning silver. World championship appearances followed before travel and professional ambitions took her offshore.  
Armed with a social work degree from Massey University, Kathy left New Zealand in 1987 with just £50 and an unconfirmed job in London. What was meant to be an overseas adventure turned into three decades abroad. In the UK, she built a respected career as a child protection specialist before shifting into training, development, and eventually founding her own



XŌtaki Hall of Famers Kathy Tracey and Lincoln Nicholls.

award-winning business.  
Alongside professional achievements, Kathy pursued endurance adventures. She climbed Kilimanjaro, trekked the Great Wall of China, and hiked to Everest Base Camp. In Guernsey, she rediscovered rowing and won gold at the Offshore World Championships in 2004. The following year, she made history as part of the first women's fours crew to row any ocean unassisted, completing the gruelling 5000km Trans-Atlantic Rowing Race. Their Guinness World Record effort raised more than NZ\$135,000 for charity.  
Kathy's sense of purpose has always run alongside her passion for adventure. She raised further funds by running the London Marathon, supported conservation projects in Peru, and joined the "Sand Sisters" expedition in the Middle East, retracing ancestral desert pilgrimages.  
Since returning to New Zealand in 2015, Kathy has continued to inspire as one of only three Master Credentialed Coaches in the country. She is a sought-after leadership coach, conference speaker, and facilitator with Outward Bound, where her love of the outdoors meets her belief in the power of challenge.  
Never one to shy away from testing her limits, Kathy has more recently embraced ultramarathons. In February 2025, she completed her first 100km trail race, just months after recovering from a broken ankle.  
For Kathy, the thread that runs through it all is clear: "Adventure and challenge teach us who we are – and how much more we're capable of than we think."

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# 'Monkey' back to old tricks

By Ian Carson  
**A much-loved family toy, known only as "Monkey", is awaiting a return to his old tricks after being carefully restored at the Ōtaki Repair Café.**

Monkey was brought to the repair café late last year by Rowena Mustard, who lives part-time at an Ōtaki Beach bach. He was in a bad way, having been stored away for several years.

He had no hands, his shoes were falling off, and his ears were about to come out. It was no surprise, given the toy had been well loved in his 65-plus years with the Mustard family.

Rowena hoped someone at the repair café would be able to help.

Just the person for the job was Erica Wallis-Iles, a woman who has been sewing as long as she can remember – recalling her days using an old treadle sewing machine. She likes nothing more than the challenge of repairing an item like Monkey and was delighted to take on the task.

"He was a bit sad," Erica says. "But I knew that I could repair him if we could get some new hands."

That task fell to Fern and Sam Campbell, who are regulars at the repair café helping 3D print parts – including hands for toys like Monkey. They had to track down images of similar toys and get a template that would create the hands Monkey might have had originally.

Then it was up to Erica to paint the hands and reattach them.

Reattaching them was tricky. The original hands had been attached with wires in the arms, and the arms had to be repacked after becoming limp with wear. New attachments had to be made for the hands to hook up to the existing wires in the arms.

Meanwhile, what was probably the original wood-shaving stuffing for Monkey's body had to be replaced. Erica used some shavings she had saved from teddy bear repairs, plus some more modern packing to bring his bulk back.

Cleaning him was also a challenge.

"He had lots of dirt on him," Erica says. "You have to be careful to use a mild cleaner, because it's easy to rub away the original colours."

She believes Monkey's face is a type of rubber, given its flexibility – and having been made before plastics became more widespread. She used cotton buds to clean his face, inside his mouth and on his ears.

Then she painted inside the mouth to bring out more of what she could only guess to be the original colours, which had faded badly.

She repainted the white around the pupils of the eyes, but it looked too bright, so she removed it.

"I think something as old as this and as well loved should show some of its age," Erica says. "You don't want to restore it to its original condition – it just wouldn't

be the same toy then. Some wear shows he was loved."

She thinks a blue jacket was a later addition, and other than some light cleaning, it needed little work.

Rowena Mustard, who is in Australia at present, told *Ōtaki Today* Monkey was bought as a present for her sister, Deborah.

"I always remember him being part of the family," Rowena says. "He went everywhere with us – he would sit in the back seat with us, on holidays, everywhere."

"He was much loved by all of us."

She was at her Ōtaki bach last summer when she heard

the Ōtaki Repair Café was having one of its regular Sunday sessions at the Memorial Hall. She had no great expectations that he could be restored, but hoped at least some repairs could be done.

She was delighted when she received a photo from the repair café, showing how he looks now.

"He holds such good memories for us as a family. I can't wait to hold him again when I come to New Zealand in October."

*The next Ōtaki Repair Cafe is on Sunday, November 30. See [energiseotaki.nz/otaki-repair-cafe](http://energiseotaki.nz/otaki-repair-cafe)*

**Sewing expert Erica Wallis-Iles with Monkey at last Sunday's Ōtaki Repair Café.**

*Photo Ōtaki Today*



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# VOTE.

## CARE ABOUT KĀPITI.

### VOTE BY 11 OCTOBER.

**We have 87 people vying for 31 positions. A record number of candidates deserves a record voter turnout! Voting papers for the 2025 local elections will be sent to enrolled voters from Tuesday 9 September 2025. You have until Saturday 11 October 12 noon sharp to cast your vote.**

#### Voting is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

Kāpiti Coast District Council elections use the STV (single-transferable votes) system to elect the Mayor, Districtwide and Ward Councillors, and Community Board members. This is a numbering system where you indicate your preferred candidate with a 1, your second choice with a 2 and so on. You can vote for as many or as few as you like; please follow the instructions in your voting envelope clearly to ensure your vote is valid and counted.

#### Casting your vote.

Voting by post is the way to go if you can – it's easy, quick and free but ensure your votes are in the post by 7 October.

Alternatively, you can drop your voting papers into one of our ballot boxes at our libraries and service centres or Council's main office on Rimu Road, Paraparaumu during their opening hours.

We will also have a mobile voting booth at some locations to help make it easy for people to cast their vote. Keep an eye on our website for days and times.

**To view your candidates' profiles and for more information visit:**



**kapiticoast.govt.nz/  
Vote2025**

#### Māori ward.

As a result of Council establishing a Māori ward, this year those on the Māori electoral roll will vote for candidates standing for the Kapiti Coast Māori ward. Similarly, those on the general electoral roll will vote for candidates standing for general ward seats. So, same vote, just different wards.

#### Māori ward poll.

Law changes mean Council must hold a referendum (poll) on the Māori ward. Voters on either roll can participate in this poll. The poll will use the FPP (First Past the Post) system, where you tick whether you wish to keep the Māori ward or remove the Māori ward.

The outcome of the poll will determine whether the Māori ward remains in place for the 2028 and 2031 local elections. The poll is binding. Regardless of the outcome of the poll, the Kapiti Coast Māori ward will be in place for the 2025–2028 triennium with a Māori ward councillor seated at the Council table.

#### Not enrolled?

If you didn't enrol before Friday 1 August, you'll need to cast a 'special vote'. Special voting documents can be requested by calling **0800 486 486** or from an electoral officer at our Council Offices on Rimu Road, Paraparaumu from 9 September. From 4 October to 11 October 2025 noon, electoral officers will also be available to issue special votes at Ōtaki library.

#### Meet your candidates before you vote.

##### Mayoral debate

Monday 22 September 2025  
6.30–8.30pm  
Te Raukura ki Kāpiti  
34a Raumati Road, Raumati Beach

##### Meet the Candidates (Raumati)

Monday 22 September 2025  
4pm–6pm  
Te Raukura ki Kāpiti  
34a Raumati Road, Raumati Beach

##### Meet the Candidates (Paraparaumu)

Tuesday 23 September 2025  
4pm–6pm  
Southwards Car Museum  
250 Otaihanga Road, Paraparaumu

##### Meet the Candidates (Paekākāriki)

Friday 26 September 2025  
3pm–5pm  
Paekākāriki Memorial Hall  
98 The Parade, Paekākāriki

##### Meet the Candidates (Waikanae)

Saturday 27 September  
3pm–5pm  
Waikanae Bowling Centre  
356 Te Moana Road, Waikanae

##### Meet the Candidates (Ōtaki)

Wednesday 1 October 2025  
2pm–4pm  
Ōtaki Memorial Hall  
69 Main Street, Ōtaki



# Keen eye at New World

By Ian Carson

**Raj Singh has an eye for the supermarket business – quite literally.**

The new owner at New World Ōtaki was looking at every shelf – even picking up a lettuce leaf from the floor – as he escorted *Ōtaki Today* to his office. It was a sure sign he wanted to make a good impression, not only with his new customers, but also his staff.

“I want to do the right things, right from the start,” he says. “I believe if you do good things, it will come back to you.”

Raj is a career supermarketier in the best of grocery traditions. He’s worked his way up, starting as a “trolley boy” in New Zealand after leaving behind his studies at a university in India in 2009. He took advantage of all the courses offered by his employer, Foodstuffs, and clearly made an impression.

He became manager of various departments at Pak N Save, and was eventually appointed store manager at Glen Innis. It was a huge responsibility – a big store and more than 250 staff to manage.

Then came an even bigger challenge, but on a smaller scale – a 4-Square store with just 20 staff. The store at Torbay was in trouble, sinking into receivership. Raj took it on in 2019, and turned the store’s fortunes around to where it became one of New Zealand’s top tier 4-Square stores.

And now he has come to Ōtaki, with his wife and two young children. Raj knows that the challenges in Ōtaki are perhaps less dramatic than his two previous supermarkets, but they are still there and require a steady hand.

He takes over from Matt Mullins, who in his time running the supermarket had built a reputation as a man committed to helping the



Raj Singh in the New World Ōtaki supermarket.

Photo Ōtaki Today

community where he could. That’s not likely to change with Raj, and is a challenge in itself as he gets to know the local people and what’s important to them.

“I want to know what’s happening here, how we can fulfill the community’s needs, what we can do to support schools and community groups,” he says. “Also, what can we do for society by reducing our carbon footprint?”

His staff are integral to the success of New World Ōtaki.

“I like my staff to be accessible to our customers. If they see someone looking for

something, they should help them find it. It’s important they chat to customers and get feedback – complaints are valuable because they help us to improve our service.”

A refurbishment of the store is planned, which Raj says will take about six months but will be worth the mild inconvenience. An access for large trucks will also be made on a property next to the store to create a safer customer park, and the Click and Collect will be expanded.

“Ōtaki deserves the best shopping experience. I’m here to help create a store Ōtaki can be proud of and that meets their needs.”

## BRIEFS

### Upgrade for train station

It was buried in an announcement on Monday (Sept 8) that Alstom was to build new battery-electric trains for the Palmerston North-Wellington line, but Ōtaki it seems is to get an upgrade of its decaying train station. Great Wellington said it would upgrade stations “including strengthening and refurbishing the historic station building at Ōtaki”. The new trains – the first battery-electric in the Southern Hemisphere – will replace the Capital Connection trains and are expected to be in full service in 2030. They will quadruple peak hour passenger services for Ōtaki and provide a weekend service.

### Green light for hall car park

Te Horo Hall is to get its long-awaited car park. Mayor Janet Holborow said at the September meeting of the Waikanae Community Board, held this month at the hall, that the council will develop part of the empty paddock next to the hall into the car park the community has been waiting for. The council owns the land. The work has been budgeted in the current Long-term Plan and is scheduled to start this financial year. The 30-year wait was highlighted in the May issue of *Ōtaki Today*.

### Brigade attends 15 call-outs

Ōtaki’s fire brigade had 15 call-outs in August: four private alarms; three each for property fires and vehicle crashes; two to help at Levin; and one each for rubbish/grass/scrub, medical, and “special service”.

# 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.*





# PŌTI: Vote 2022

Ōtaki Today publishes these pages as a service to local democracy. The information and photographs of candidates have been requested without direction as to content. Where a candidate is standing for more than one position (except mayor), their statement appears only once. Readers are urged to find out as much as they can about the candidates so they can make an informed vote.

## MAYORALTY (6 candidates, 1 vacancy)

### MARTIN HALLIDAY

Six years Paraparaumu Ward Councillor and 30 years as an entrepreneur/business owner, I am ready to lead Kapiti as your Mayor and ask for your support. Having spent time in Ōtaki growing up, Ōtaki holds a special place for me. As the Councillor on Te Whakaminenga o Kapiti I successfully pushed for the Māori ward, supported Ōtaki's substantial infrastructure investment and the strengthening of KCDC's relationship with Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki. Issues I will address for Ōtaki – health, affordable housing, rates ceiling, transport connection, bringing whānau back home. Your Needs my Focus :- Vote Halliday #1 [Martinhalliday.co.nz](http://Martinhalliday.co.nz)



### JANET HOLBOROW

It's been a privilege to serve as your Mayor. I'm asking for your support for a second term to keep Kāpiti moving forward – growing well and investing wisely in our future. Over the past three years, I've led a positive, forward-looking Council. We've delivered key projects in Ōtaki including new reservoirs, stormwater renewals and cycleways. Over the next term, I'll make sure the Memorial Hall upgrade is progressed to create a quality community facility. I look forward to continuing working with the Ōtaki Community Board and Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki, delivering for this vibrant community.



### ROB McCANN

Kapiti needs fresh leadership. The decision of two mayoral candidates to authorise a \$50,000 pay-rise for the Chief Executive after just one year in the role – followed by nearly \$43,000 for a six-day Harvard Business School programme – sends entirely the wrong message if we're serious about controlling rates. Leadership starts at the top. As your Mayor, I'll be open, transparent, and accountable. I'll end closed-door decision-making, empower community boards, ensure your voice is heard, and bring much-needed financial discipline to the mayoralty. I offer the fresh leadership Kapiti needs now. Vote McCann – A Mayor That CAN.



### DEAN HARRIS

I am standing for Mayor and Waikanae ward with the We Love Kapiti team. We are committed to capping any rates advance to no more than 3% average pa. I have a business & construction background and believe excessive regulation and wasteful spending is driving rates higher. We will review the LTP so council spending stays within its parameters. We need to ensure the district has the services our retired community need, a thriving business community and a vision for the future of Kapiti as a destination. Will reduce spending on non-core, non-essential or wasteful activities.



### KIM HOBSON

I have lived in Kapiti while working with governments and agencies for decades. I want to see Kapiti's potential and community prosper. Kapiti is growing fast and has huge opportunities. We attract vibrant people and I want to empower them to help create a future that provides all our needs locally. Action on schools and hospital - With a population of 58,000 Kapiti is entitled to existing government funding for a new 140+ bed hospital, 1 High School, and 2 Primary-Intermediate schools. No rates increase - We can achieve all this and more without increasing rates through investments, partnerships, minimising waste.



### LIZ KOH

Rates affordability is a key issue for Kapiti but Councils are under pressure from rising costs and high debt. The next triennium will require strong leadership to find a solution for rates affordability that doesn't undermine the future financial stability of Council. Council and the community need to work as a team to find a way forward. I offer a track record of strong leadership and community involvement, decades of experience as an accountant and financial adviser and an ability to get things done. Change is imperative. Leadership, engagement and transparency are what I stand for.



## GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL – Kāpiti (2 candidates, 1 vacancy)

### SAM FERGUSON

With six years of regional council experience and a passion for the environment, I am the fresh face and renewed energy Kāpiti deserves. I grew up in Kāpiti and have recently returned to live in Raumati South. For the past six years, I've represented Horowhenua on Horizons Regional Council and chaired the Passenger Transport Committee. My priority is ensuring we enhance our rivers and deliver public transport that connects us to where we want to go. I bring experience, enthusiasm, and a track record of working alongside communities to achieve positive change.



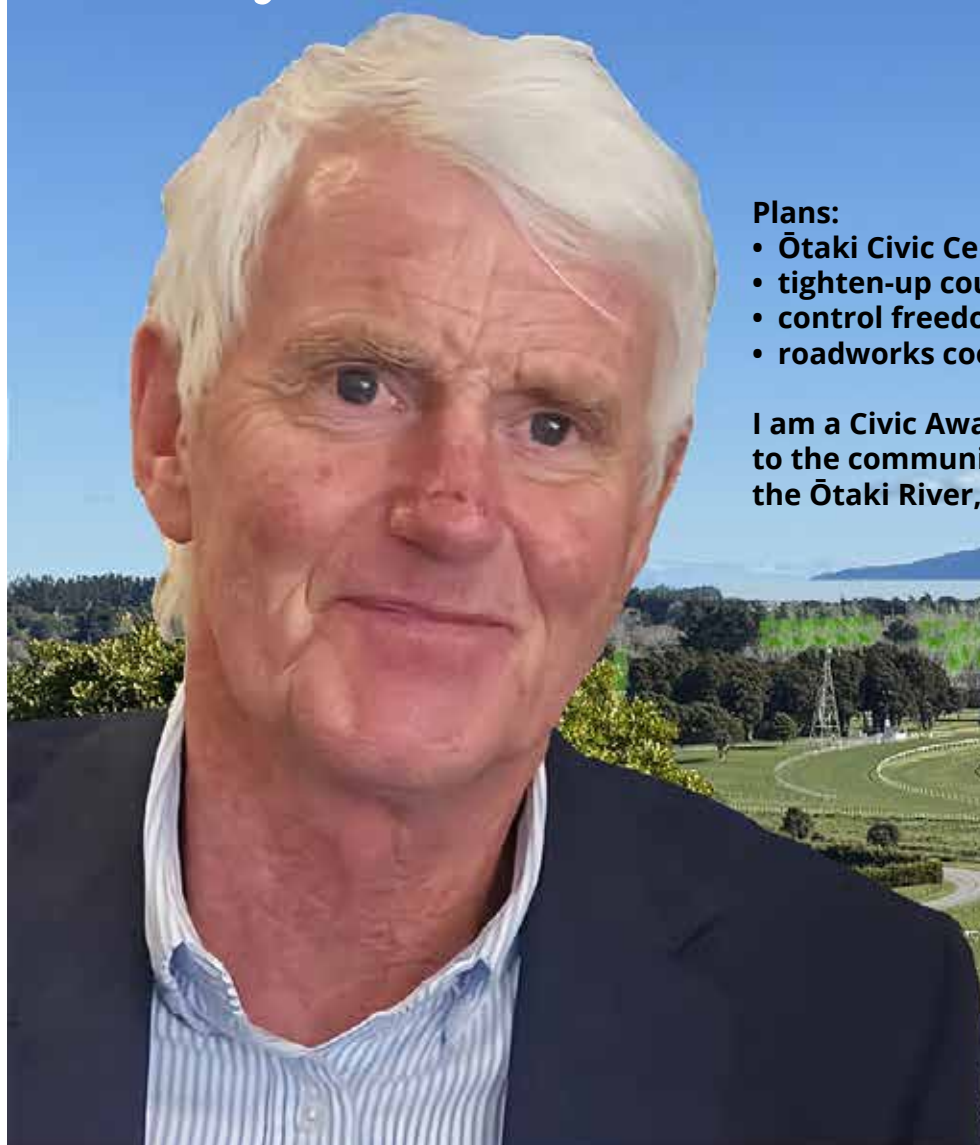
### PENNY GAYLOR

I ask for your support to be re-elected. Being a single voice and vote for Kāpiti takes skill, dedication, and experience from a local with their feet on the ground. I'll continue to advocate for smarter spending and practical results. I've worked hard to secure new train services for Ōtaki and electric buses in Kapiti. Building new electric trains will start soon, providing six services a day for Ōtaki, and introducing weekend services. Chairing the Environment Committee, I've delivered, and will keep fighting for, investment in flood protection, pest control, wetlands and restoring our waterways. Proven local track record.



# 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
- courthouse 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:

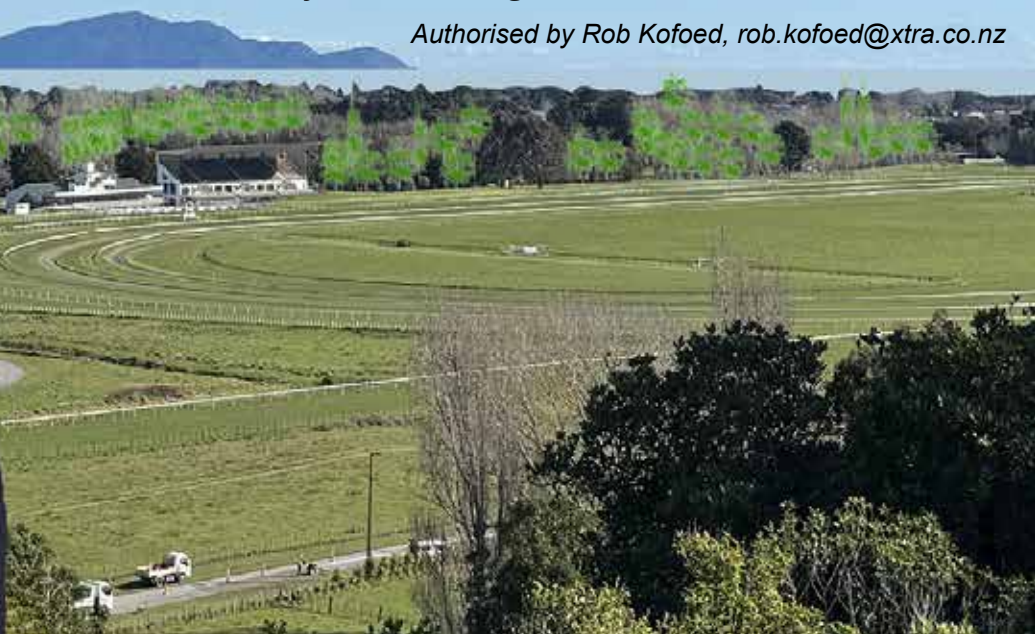
- Ōtaki Civic Centre
- tighten-up council contract spending
- control freedom camping
- roadworks coordination.

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](mailto:rob.kofoed@xtra.co.nz)





ŌTAKI WARD (5 candidates, 1 vacancy)

HENITI BUICK

Kia ora, I'm Heniti, raised and educated here in Ōtaki. I'm not a politician, I'm someone who gets things done. As CEO of a local health and social service organisation, a sports coach and a mum of 4, I know the challenges our people face because I live them too. I see the potential in our town and the hardworking people behind it. I'm standing for Council to bring practical solutions, honest conversations, and strong local representation. Ōtaki deserves someone who shows up, listens, and backs our community – not just at election time, but every day.



CAM BUTLER

Ōtaki is a special community to me as it is to you and I love living in this area. As chair of the Ōtaki Community Board for the last 3 years I have made a positive difference by representing our community. We need our voice heard at the council table when it comes to housing, safety, development, social services and transport. By continuing to stand up for our community as Ōtaki Ward Councillor I can continue to keep Ōtaki the special place we love.



ROB KOFOED

I'm a current councillor, registered architect and arbitrator. I have restored access to Ōtaki Forks, supported Moy Place and reservoir reviews, seen the courthouse transform into an art gallery, advocated for Ōtaki health services, pushed for access to a Kapiti polyclinic and affordable housing, and personally funded the Ōtaki KYS building. I formed an urban panel to mitigate against over-dense housing developments and to protect our open spaces. My future focus is on: A Civic Centre for Ōtaki, tighten-up Council contract spending, control freedom camping, roadworks coordination. I am committed to ensuring the best representation and a better share of funding for Ōtaki.



BRENT FROGLEY

I am one of six We Love Kapiti affiliated candidates, prioritising capping KCDC rates increases to no more than an average of 3%pa. We have a costed process to achieve this. We Love Kapiti will go through KCDC's long term and current plans, and take out non essential expenditure. We will undertake a structural review to reduce costs and improve efficiencies. I will use my managerial experience in product innovation for a major bank, together with 5 years as Board Chair for Newlands College, as part of a team that will have the numbers at Council to deliver affordable rates.



SHELLY WARWICK

Currently Ōtaki Ward Councillor. Born and raised in Ōtaki, bringing local knowledge, strong connections, six years on the Ōtaki Community Board, and three years as your councillor. Recipient of a Civic and Local Hero award for volunteer work in Ōtaki. A mum of four, I'm a Well Child (Plunket) nurse connecting me to the needs of whānau, health, housing, and wellbeing and I also chair a national charity. During my term, we've continued to support local events, progressed key water infrastructure upgrades, restored access to the Ōtaki Gorge, and helped establish the new Ōtaki Te Horo Business Association. Local, Committed.



ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD (7 candidates, 4 vacancies)

SIMON BLACK

As a local resident, firefighter, business owner, and current Deputy Chair, I'm 100% committed to Ōtaki. Over the past three years, I've worked hard to deliver results: tackling anti-social driving with Police, backing Vision Ōtaki with 1200+ submissions, helping locals into housing. We've facilitated the launch of the Ōtaki and Te Horo Business Association with \$100K secured, ensured 24/7 AED access downtown and strengthened ties with Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki. There's more to do, especially in public transport and community safety, which is why I'm standing again. With experience, passion, and energy, I'll keep delivering for Ōtaki. Please give me your #1 vote.



ANGELA BUSWELL

I'm standing for Ōtaki Community Board to represent and strengthen the place we call home. As a long-time Kāpiti local, now living in Hautere, I bring deep community ties and a strong understanding of the opportunities and challenges we face. I've raised my family here, owned several businesses, and had six years as a District Councillor, advocating for growth, resilient infrastructure, and connected communities. I'm solutions-focused, approachable, and passionate about ensuring local voices are heard. With a background in business and real estate, I understand how to negotiate, lead, and get results.



SHERRIL MOODY

Having moved to Ōtaki three years ago, I found real joy in this small town with a big heart. I have a background in local government, having been an elected member of a council supporting another small town for 12 years. My main concern is the lack of communication between residents and councils, and the lack of effective consultation. That's why I'm putting my name forward as a community board member. My interests are in urban and environmental planning and supporting the concerns of the Ōtaki Beach community.



continues over page

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 BOARD (continued)

CHRIS PAPPS

I have been a member of the Ōtaki Community Board for the past four electoral terms, including a term as chair. I live in Ōtaki and have worked on the Kāpiti Coast for more than 30 years. I have a broad knowledge of issues and opportunities in Ōtaki, and have a long-term interest in public transport, advocating successfully for better bus and train services. I am a former Chair of the expressway Community Expressway Liaison Group. I'll continue to focus on and advocate for public transport and issues that vitally affect the future of Ōtaki and its people.



RHYNA TARATOA


I've always had a passion for serving this community and now feels like the right time to stand for the Community Board. My journey began with Kāpiti Coast Youth Council, where I discovered how much impact we can make through service. I've worked as a teacher aide at Ōtaki College, where I realised advocating for whānau is one of my strengths. I'm in my final year at Te Wānanga o Raukawa, studying for a bachelor in social work. I volunteer with Fire and Emergency NZ and you'll often find me supporting whānau and the community. I look forward to serving you on the Board.

Also CAM BUTLER (see previous page) and Jackie Elliott (page 15)

WAIKANAĒ COMMUNITY BOARD (6 candidates, 4 vacancies)

TONCHI BEGOVICH

Current Waikanae Community Board member and Waikanae resident for 17 years. Waikanae contributes substantially to rates, yet is underinvested in. I'll advocate for improved community amenities in our beach, garden, and rural areas. I will champion for a smaller council that's steered back to core services, reducing spending in the wrong areas to have a better impact on the ratepayer with affordable, fair, equitable annual rates contributions, especially fixed-income households. With three trienniums on the board, I stand again as an experienced realist understanding where I can tangibly influence making a difference to protect Waikanae's special character areas.



RICHARD MANSELL

I am re-standing for the Waikanae Community Board to continue the works that have started during my term. I have endeavoured to represent more than just the Waikanae Village where I live. As chair of the Board I instituted the practice of meetings being held in the various communities we serve to improve people's access for the likes of Te Horo and Reikorangi. I have supported the upgrading of the Te Horo and Reikorangi Halls by championing the applications for funding available from our Board. I work well with others and am prepared to work for our differing communities.

JOHN McCORMICK

We moved to Waikanae 18 months ago, and we love it. I am a keen runner, swimmer and cyclist, so the trails and beaches are perfect for me. Discovering the Waikanae Park Run was a bonus! After a 40-year career as an accountant, I am now semi-retired. I feel I have the time and skills to contribute to the community. As well as my professional background, I was a counsellor with Lifeline for many years, so I know how to listen. Vote McCormick No 1. If you have another preference, 2 or 3 are also helpful.

Also: PETER BOLLMANN, PHIL BYRNE and MICHAEL MOORE (opposite page)



VOTE #1

SAM FERGUSON

Greater Wellington Regional Council

Authorised by:  
Sam Ferguson, sam4greaterwellington@gmail.com

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



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

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



WAIKANAĒ WARD (9 candidates, 2 vacancies)

PETER BOLLMANN

I am a long-term resident of Waikanae, living in the Reikorangi Valley. I work with the Salvation Army in Kapiti, leading a passionate team of staff and volunteers. My priorities are: Rates – running a sharp ruler across everything, ensuring we get value for money. Health – a proper health strategy and action plan as a matter of priority. Town centres – our towns need to be safe and accessible. We need real support for local businesses with better amenities. I am achievement oriented: positive action and successful outcomes. I bring drive, commitment and compassion to Council.



STEVEN BOTICA

I'm passionate about Waikanae and want it to reach its potential. Our council needs to find a better balance between rates and services. My career leading large projects has given me the skills to navigate these hard choices. I'll advocate for a second crossing over the railway line, improved infrastructure at Waikanae Beach, and better facilities for our youth. My commitment is evident by my service at Waikanae Rotary for 31 years, six times as President, Being the Parkwood Trust Board Deputy Chair, the current Chair of Kāpiti Basketball Association, and coaching Paraparaumu College basketball teams for 12 years. Committed. Capable. Local. Proven.



PHIL BYRNE

Local business owner, aviation professional, 20 years' military service. Kapiti needs to get back to basics. I'm standing for Council to restore focus on the essentials: reliable infrastructure, responsible spending, and community-first services. Historic council decisions show how poor consultation and questionable planning can undermine trust. This must change. I will bring practical leadership, discipline, and a genuine commitment to public service. My priorities are straightforward: deliver value for ratepayers, protect property rights, support local businesses, and make Council decisions transparent and accountable. I'm not here for politics or vanity projects. I'm here to serve. Independent. Accountable. Focused on what matters.



MARTIN FRAUENSTEIN

I'm standing for Council in the Waikanae Ward, together with the We Love Kapiti Team. Residing in Raumati, a local business owner, and regular golfer in Waikanae. My background in business process improvement and enterprise system design, spanning both public and private sectors, has sharpened my focus on reducing waste of any kind, be that time, effort, money, or resources. We need a contestable, evidence-based approach to policy, with community needs at its core. Council needs to return to its core business, being financial responsibility, supporting local businesses, protecting and improving our environment, staying engaged with the people it serves.



CHRIS MACLEAN

I've been part of the Waikanae Beach community since 1974, when my parents built our family home here. I'm an advocate for Kapiti's heritage and environment – I co-authored Waikanae - past & present (1988) and wrote Tararua (1994) and Kapiti (1999). I co-founded KRAP (Kapiti Ratepayers Against Pollution) to campaign for improved sewage infrastructure. Since 2009, I've been active in dune restoration, planting erosion-resistant natives, and recently led a volunteer project regenerating 30ha of farmland into podocarp forest in QEII Park. My priorities are: promoting Kapiti as a destination; fairer rates (reverse the land/capital ratio); decision-making grounded in 50 years of local knowledge.



MICHAEL MOORE

As a member and chair of the Waikanae Community Board I have worked tirelessly to advocate for residents of Waikanae, Reikorangi and Te Horo. I turn up, listen, and act on residents' concerns. I am committed to good governance, ensuring rates deliver value through prudent and transparent spending. I have: supported upgrade of Te Horo Beach's changing rooms and picnic area; backed the Waikanae Library rebuild and new community hub; advocated for funding for residents, community groups and Te Horo Hall. I will push for better public transport, protection of our coastal environment, predator control, and waterway management that mitigates road flooding.



JOCELYN PRVANOV

It's been a privilege to serve as your Waikanae Ward Councillor for the past six years. I've lived in Waikanae for 25 years, bringing a background in science, regulation, and rural perspective to Council. As Chair the Climate and Environment Committee, I've championed practical, future-focused initiatives that balance growth, environmental protection, and financial responsibility. I've stood up for fair representation, pragmatic road naming, and voted against unpopular policies like urban intensification and the Moy Place land status change. Guided by values of respect, integrity, honesty, transparency, and inclusiveness, I make balanced, informed decisions - with an eye on both community wellbeing and fiscal prudence.



NIGEL WILSON

As a long-time Waikanae resident, I bring an honest, hardworking commonsense approach to political decision making. In representing the Waikanae Ward, I undertake to fully represent all the ward's constituent parts with their challenges and opportunities – Te Horo, Peka Peka, Te Horo Beach, Waikanae Beach, Reikorangi, Waikanae Downs. My focus is on finishing Waikanae's Library, upgrading our local facilities and protecting Waikanae from inappropriate intensive development. My knowledge, experience and the ability to get things done will continue to benefit Waikanae's interests at the council table, focussing on the best delivery of core services. Vote Wilson #1.



Also DEAN HARRIS (see p10)

# MCCANN FOR MAYOR

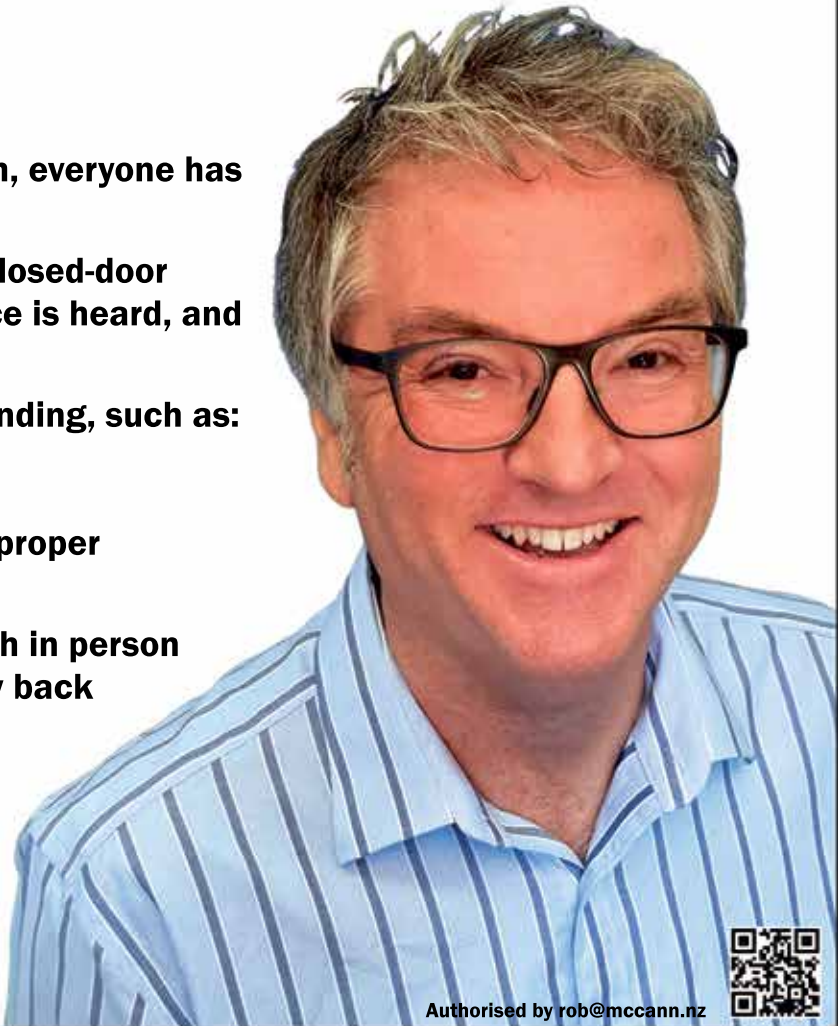
**Leadership means setting the right example. When times are tough, everyone has to tighten their belts and that includes Council.**

**As your Mayor, I'll be open, transparent, and accountable. I'll end closed-door decision-making, empower community boards, make sure your voice is heard, and bring real financial discipline to the role.**

**If we're serious about controlling rates, we must stop wasteful spending, such as:**  
- a \$50,000 pay rise for the CEO after just one year in the job  
- \$34,000 on an overseas Harvard business course  
- \$10 million in economic development funds handed over without proper oversight.

**Our community is calling for new leadership. I'll be accessible - both in person and online - and I'll bring strong communication and accountability back to the mayoralty.**

**MAKE COUNCIL WORK FOR YOU**  
**MCCANN CAN**



Authorised by rob@mccann.nz





**VOTE 1 TO RE-ELECT**

# Simon Black

for Ōtaki Community Board



Here's how we'll help Ōtaki grow more vibrant, smarter and stronger than ever.

## ✓ Community

Community comes first. As a volunteer Senior Firefighter here in Ōtaki, I'll bring my experience and people skills to everything I do for our community.

If re-elected, I'll continue to advocate for better public transport—especially north of Ōtaki—and support initiatives that make our community safer.

## ✓ Commerce

For over 15 years I've run a local software company providing digital services to government, and I'll bring the same skills and business know-how to strengthen our community.

I'll also work alongside our new business association to help shape a business strategy for Ōtaki, particularly as we transition through the revocation of the old State Highway.

## ✓ Connection

Connection is key to building on the progress we have already made.

As Deputy Chair of the Ōtaki Community Board, I've built strong ties with our community, voluntary groups, businesses and Council, and will keep using these connections to help Ōtaki grow stronger and more resilient.



Find out more at

[www.SimonBlack.nz](http://www.SimonBlack.nz)

Authorised by Simon Black  
[www.simonblack.nz](http://www.simonblack.nz)

## KAPITI COAST MĀORI WARD (6 candidates, 1 vacancy)

### HIMIONA GRACE

Born and raised in Paekākāriki, my whakapapa to Kāpiti goes back 9 generations, to when Te Rangihiroa arrived from Kāwhia with Ngāti Toa during Te Heke Mai Raro. I have 10 years of political experience, advocating for and defending our community from both inside and outside of Parliament. I have shaped laws, influenced national policy, and was instrumental in building the Toitū Te Tiriti movement. As mana whenua I will embody the Treaty partnership in local government. I fought to establish Māori wards, now I am joining in the fight to retain them.



### RANGI HALBERT

I am committed to enhance Māori and their wellbeing as a people. I will work to ensure that the principles of both Māori and KCDC are upheld, so that our communities are properly informed. Together, we can be good kaitiaki or guardians for our waterways. We will work together with a different rates arrears plan to keep families in their homes. Council needs to listen, not just to our needs but to our knowledge. There is a place for freedom and integrity alongside unity, and I want to bring them together in a Kāpiti that is good for us all.



### DEANNA RUDD

As mana whenua, a kuia and parent, raising a waka ama, rugby and league-loving teenage daughter attending kura ā-iwi, I will bring a te ao Māori perspective, existing relationships, robust governance, leadership and financial management to the Māori Ward. As a Ngāti Raukawa, Ōtaki hapū, Tiriti co-claimant, I commit to ensuring whānau and hapū voices are included in council decisions, championing sustainable outcomes amid a cost of living crisis. Advocating for community wellbeing, resilient infrastructure and equitable access to council services, I support transparent, accountable leadership. My priorities are strengthening Te Tiriti partnership, accessible, inclusive representation and supporting a thriving, bilingual Kāpiti.



### JASON THURSTON

Kinship to Mana whenua, my Grandma's brother marrying into a local Ōtaki whānau. Affiliation to Paraparaumu Māori Committee NZMC, local business owner 33 years, including 6 years in Ōtaki. Recent achievements – a discussion paper accepted at Hui Taumata asking thought leaders how to facilitate kotahitanga. As Māori Ward councillor I will facilitate support for mana whenua objectives and mātauranga Māori. My election policies reviewing current alcohol regulations. Supporting KCDC to become a unitary authority to bring back local decisions for environment & transport. Capping rates at a lower base than the proposed 7% increases.



# Cam BUTLER

**VOTE 1**

**FOR ŌTAKI WARD**

- ✓ **Continuity** Finishing what we've started. Keeping the momentum.
- ✓ **Drive** Building partnerships. Standing with residents and Iwi.
- ✓ **Heart** Fronting up. Making life better for our community.

Back Continuity, Drive, and Heart for Ōtaki — put **1** next to Cam Butler.  
**Your voice for Ōtaki. Tō māngai mō Ōtaki.**





**BRIAN RUAWAI-HAMILTON**

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, tēnā rā tātou katoa. 'Mā te huruhuru te manu ka rere - Adorn the bird with feathers so it may fly.' He uri ahau nō Aotea, Tainui, Te Arawa, Mataatua, Kurahaupō, me Takitimu waka. Ko Brian Ruawai-Hamilton ahau. I stand for kotahitanga - unity and team - believing in serving our people with manaakitanga and integrity. As part of our unified team, We Love Kāpiti, I commit to three pou: Cap rates at an average of 3%; Champion democracy over bureaucracy; Lead with common sense. Manaakitanga underpinned the 1840 Waitangi hui, it must guide us today.



**JORDON WANSBROUGH**

I am standing for the Kāpiti Māori ward because I am passionate about the people in my community. As a rongoā practitioner I love helping people and showing them how to heal their tinana and their whānau. I stand for the youth and disability community – there is not enough representation in these areas. We need Māori at all decision making tables, from local government to Parliament seats. Tāngata whenua know how to look after the land and the people. King Charles is so right – our government needs to listen to all generations of the people who call Aotearoa New Zealand home.



VOTE

2025

LOCAL ELECTIONS

DISTRICT-WIDE COUNCILLORS (9 candidates, 2 vacancies)

**GRANT BARTLETT**

I have lived on the Kapiti Coast since 2010. I am an occasional tramp, a keen fisherman, and my partner and I both love the Kapiti Coast. I am a carpenter by trade, I've had 15 years in sales and marketing, 5 years as a stopping violence facilitator, and 5 years as a drug counsellor in Rimutaka prison. I am anti managed retreat, and believe it is the council's role to implement strategies to counter climate change. We need to manage our infrastructure better. Kapiti is a fast growing district & we need to better manage our water in, and water out.



**LIZ KOH**

In my time as a Councillor I have stopped the Te Uruhi (Kapiti Gateway) project, initiated the development of Council's Top 10 strategic 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 2025/26 Annual Plan and initiated the development of a simple breakdown of costs by activity so that ratepayers can see what their money is spent on. I plan to increase the focus on financial management and community engagement going forward and explore options for alternative revenue streams.



**JOANNE WELCH**

I'm standing for Council with We Love Kāpiti, who prioritises capping average rate changes at no more than 3% p/a. Council overspending has resulted in unreasonable rate hikes, exerting real pressure on locals. We have a clear plan to restore affordability to you. Raumati is home. I've raised my children here and care deeply about our community. I'm committed to using my background in finance, sales, property investment, and advocacy through my past work with Kāpiti C.A.L.M, to protect what makes Kāpiti special. I'm dedicated to defending your property rights and oppose the Council's proposal to mark 20,000+ homes with unlikely coastal hazards.



**JACKIE ELLIOTT**

I'm Jackie Elliott, a current Otaki Community Board member and on the National Community Boards Executive. A 5th generation Kapiti Coaster I have been a Districtwide councillor and RMA hearings commissioner for ten years, currently on the District Licensing Committee. I'm a journalist and published local history author. Being on the OCB team has been rewarding as we each brought our unique skills to the table to work collaboratively on many diverse projects. Listening, advocating and actioning positive change and improvements for Otaki. I seek your vote to continue to support our community and our whenua. [elliott4kapiti@gmail.com](mailto:elliott4kapiti@gmail.com).



**ROB McCANN**

Kapiti needs fresh leadership. If we're serious about controlling rates, we must lead by example – and not approve \$50,000 pay rises for the CEO or nearly \$43,000 for a six-day Harvard Business School programme. I'll back projects that deliver value for your community – but if something doesn't stack up, I won't support it. With experience in both the public and private sectors – including running my own business, leading an NGO, and working in a Cabinet Minister's office – I offer the fresh leadership Kapiti needs now. Vote McCann – because McCann CAN.



**GAVIN WELSH**

We live in a beautiful, family-friendly place full of potential. If elected, I'll work to unlock that potential – supporting lifestyle opportunities, fit-for-purpose infrastructure, access to vital public services, and a thriving local economy that creates jobs for future generations. I'll balance this with the ongoing challenge of keeping rates fair and affordable. As a former KCDC Councillor, I understand local government and can hit the ground running. As a family man and local business owner, I understand everyday pressures. I'm passionate about protecting our environment and oceans, and I'll champion open, democratic engagement as we shape our district's future together.



**LAWRENCE KIRBY**

Please re-elect me as District-wide Councillor. As Deputy Mayor, I've worked hard for Ōtaki, like the reservoir – I heard the desire for more consultation and facilitated public meetings resulting in a better outcome. Then Moy Place and Blue Bluff reopening. It was clear to me what residents wanted, so I voted with Ōtaki. I will continue to: demonstrate effective, stable governance; provide experienced, values-based leadership; keep council spending focused – delivering value without waste; prioritise well-planned physical and social infrastructure for a thriving district; listen to people and lead from my learnings. I'd appreciate your support by voting for me, "1".



**JO TURNER**

As a long-time Kāpiti resident and homeowner, I'm standing to bring transparency, fairness, and genuine community representation back to our Council. I will push for clear, accessible communication on spending, water billing, and infrastructure. I support responsible budgeting, less reliance on consultants, and improved public input on decisions. I'm passionate about ensuring both older and younger generations feel heard. I will fight for honesty, action, and respect. I believe ratepayers and residents deserve leadership that truly listens. I am approachable, honest, and will stand up for what's right. I will represent you – not speak for you, but with you.



**MAREK WILLIS**

I am proud to call Kāpiti home, raising my 3 children here and wanting them to grow up in a safe, affordable, and supportive community. My background spans over 15 years in law enforcement, investigations, governance, and regulatory compliance, including work with the Serious Fraud Office community of practice and the Joint Agency Integrity and Conduct Forum. I have also led youth charities and served on professional conduct committees, experiences that have shaped my belief in fairness, accountability, and transparency. I am standing for council because local government should serve people, not privilege. Kāpiti's future should work for all of us.



VOTE!

#1

Heniti Buick

for Ōtaki Ward Councillor

Elevating the voice of our community

For People, For Progress!

Authorised by  
Heniti Buick, [heniti.davis@gmail.com](mailto:heniti.davis@gmail.com)

• People first

• Leadership you can trust

• Efficient use of resources



# Rāhui Road next in line for road works



**Rāhui Road is to be the site of the next bout of Ōtaki’s ongoing road works.**

The road will be closed for three months from mid-November as workers install the last two of 44 manholes in a significant wastewater upgrade. Traffic will need to use Te Manuao Road on the plateau, as it did several years ago when the Rāhui expressway bridge was built.

The September Ōtaki Community Board meeting was advised that the pipe being laid up Mill Road will continue under the expressway and along Rāhui Road to Freemans Road, and into Te Roto Road by the race course. That work is scheduled for the new year.

The board was also told that the road surface on Aotaki Street from Riverbank Road to

Kauri Street will be completely resurfaced. The recent roadworks have given motorists a bumpy ride. The board hopes to get more of the road resurfaced (see Cam’s Corner, p17).

Work crews have advanced sewer pipe works past Rangatira Street on Aotaki Street along to the frontage of Fresh Choice.

The roundabout at Fresh Choice was due to be partially closed on Tuesday (Sept 9). Work on the roundabout is due to start in mid-September.

Meantime, locals can expect Mill Road between Hariata Street and the old state highway roundabout to remain closed to traffic for another 5-6 weeks (photo at left)

Traffic going to the township from the highway currently has to use Waerenga Road and in reverse. Dunstan Street remains open, but is blocked at Mill Road. Domain Road is busier as traffic negotiates the closures farther east on Mill Road.

There’s access for residents within the working area and workers are on site during work hours to help direct people in and out of their properties.

During the closure, workers are installing a manhole and progressing the trench in the road up to the roundabout. Works are expected to reach the roundabout in late-September, and work on the roundabout to begin in early October.

Motorists should take care around the multiple Ōtaki roadworks as traffic management changes as the work progresses.

There will be a break in construction works over the December/January period to give retailers and the community a holiday from the works.

H

M

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282 Mill Road

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5 Aputa Place

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There’s a lot going on in  
Ōtaki – and it starts with us!

Yes, the roadworks seem never ending  
and the cones are out — but so are the  
coffees, kai, bargains, and markets.

Now’s the perfect time to shop local, grab a cuppa with  
friends, explore our galleries, and share your favourite  
hidden gems with whānau and visitors.

With easy parking near the station and so much just a  
short walk away, let’s celebrate what makes Ōtaki special.



Small Town Big Heart  
Follow us on Facebook



# ŌTAKI STREET SCENE



Sarah Brock



Fiona Kertesz

ŌTAKI DISTRICT ARTS, ATTRACTIONS AND EVENTS

Spring 2025

## Kāpiti Coast Art Trail celebrates 25 years in 2025

**Twenty five years of the Art Trail – from humble beginnings in 2001 with just 26 venues – the Art Trail was an instant hit.**

Locals and visitors embraced the chance to step inside artists' studios, hear the stories behind the work, and purchase art in a way that felt personal and meaningful.

Since then, the Art Trail has grown into a vibrant, two-weekend event that now features more than 140 artists from Paekākāriki to Ōtaki.

And while the scale has changed, the spirit of the Art Trail remains the same – creating space for connection, discovery, and a deeper appreciation for the creative process.

Whether it's your first time or your 25th, there is always something new to see.

The Kāpiti Coast Art Trail this year showcases more than 140 artists in studios and shared spaces. With additional artists represented in 13 galleries, there are more than 300 artists showing a wide variety of art forms, from painting and sculpture to jewellery, ceramics, and textiles.

Many artists are award-winning, so there's something to inspire and delight everyone on the Art Trail.

To see which Kāpiti Coast artists are participating this year, go to: [kapiticoastarttrail.co.nz/participating-artists/](http://kapiticoastarttrail.co.nz/participating-artists/).

Curating your own trail is made easy by using your smartphone as your guide. Go to [kapiticoastarttrail.co.nz/plan-your-trail/](http://kapiticoastarttrail.co.nz/plan-your-trail/) and start building your trail by viewing artists on the Participating Artists page.

Add the ones you're interested in to your favorites by clicking on the heart in the top right corner. They'll get added to your My Favourites list, where you can save and rearrange them. Plot a route on the big map in the sequence you'd like to visit. Open in Google Maps and use your mobile on the day, to find your way.

If you need more help, there are further instructions with a step-by-step guide.

And if you want to do it the old fashioned way, pick up a copy of the printed guide (pictured above) at Kāpiti Coast District Council service centres and libraries, and at various spots across the Wellington region.

Ōtaki is well served, with 40 artists and galleries to visit.



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# ŌTAKI STREET SCENE



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## 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



## FROM THE ARCHIVES: PAPERS PAST

### NEW ZEALAND TIMES, 28 SEPTEMBER 1925 GENERAL JOTTINGS

Times Correspondent. ŌTAKI, September 26.  
The makomako (bell bird) is fairly plentiful in Ōtaki Gorge, and their clear, bell-like notes may be heard in various parts. The Gorge roads are in fairly good order at the present time, but there are places that could do with attention. A large slip also threatens the road in one place. Several horses in the district, afraid of Friday night's storm, were injured through galloping into fences, etc. One or two animals were rather severely injured. The storm, which broke over Ōtaki on Friday night, was the means of doing damage to gardens, etc., the hail being very severe – in fact the storm was the worst experienced for many years. The electric current was also affected. On Saturday the weather cleared, but in the evening another storm broke over the district, and heavy rain again fell. Today (Wednesday) the weather is still bad. A slip occurred in the Ōtaki Gorge on Saturday night, when two large trees were carried on to the road in a large land slide. The road is completely blocked, near Corrigan's sawmill, and many settlers are greatly inconvenienced.

### LEVIN DAILY CHRONICLE, 1 SEPTEMBER 1925,

Seventeen applications were received for the position of Town clerk at Ōtaki and the appointment was made of Mr Alex. Wilson, now a member of Messrs Harper and Atmore's staff, at Ōtaki. Mr S. Kerr, of Porirua, was appointed Borough foreman out of eight applicants. Local footballers will be interested to note from to-day's telegrams that Dick Crotty, formerly of the Levin Wanderers, has been chosen as one of the Wellington rep team to meet Hawke's Bay on Saturday for the Ranfurly Shield. Crotty played in the early part of the season in Levin and his progress in big Rugby will be followed with pleasure by his local friends.

### MANAWATU STANDARD, 3 SEPTEMBER 1925 ŌTAKI HOSPITAL

MR FIELD'S PLEA FOR RETENTION.  
Speaking in Parliament yesterday during the discussion on the Public Health Department's report, Mr W. H. Field (Ōtaki) emphasised the necessity for the hospital in his district being retained; it would be nothing short of a crime if it were removed, he said. The attempt to do so had been made and abandoned on account of the feeling displayed by the people. The growing population was large enough to maintain the institution, and he trusted that the department would realise that the hospital was a real necessity. The sanatorium where female patients were treated was performing excellent service, and he was pleased to learn that the accommodation would be extended.

### MANAWATU TIMES, 12 SEPTEMBER 1925 TB DEATH RATE

OVERCROWDING AT ŌTAKI SANATORIUM  
Reference was made in the House today to the Ōtaki Sanatorium. Mr Sidey referred to the lack of accommodation there. In his reply the Minister of Health (Sir Maui Pomare) said that Mr Sidey was quite right in his assertion that there was not sufficient accommodation for all the cases that applied for, but that defect would be overcome by the erection of new buildings. The Department had done a great deal in combating tuberculosis in New Zealand and had reduced the death rate from 6.5 to 5.6 per thousand.

## S.O.S. ROUTE TO WELLINGTON

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THE SCENIC ROUTE

BY MOTOR AND RAIL  
BY MOTOR AND RAIL

A new S.O.S. route to Wellington will commence on TUESDAY, SEPT. 1st via Foxton, Levin and Otaki, connecting with MANAWATU EXPRESS.

This route is 10 miles shorter than any other route from Wanganui.

Allowing 3½ hours for the delightful Motor Trip of 80 miles the rest of the journey is done by EXPRESS TRAIN and the total time occupied by the journey from WANGANUI TO WELLINGTON is 5½ hours.

### TIME TABLE:

Leave S.O.S. Office, Wanganui, 2.0 p.m.  
Arrive Foxton . . . . . 4.0 p.m.  
Arrive Levin . . . . . 4.30 p.m.  
Arrive Otaki . . . . . 5.0 p.m.

Manawatu Express leaves Otaki at 5.17,  
Arrive Wellington 7.13.

### FARES:

Wanganui to Foxton—12/6  
Wanganui to Levin—16/-  
Wanganui to Otaki—20/-

First Class Train Fare, Otaki to  
Wellington 7/1.

NOTICE.—The Wanganui-Otaki timetable which has been operating since July 1st, and leaving Wanganui daily at 4 p.m. and arriving at Otaki at 7 p.m., connecting with Slow Train to Wellington is HEREBY CANCELLED and the above is substituted.

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## ŌTAKI HERITAGE

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From Kāinga to Village  
— Part 1: 1843-1920



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# ŌTAKI STREET SCENE



## THE KILNS AT TE HORO

JIM WINIATA WAY, TE HORO  
September 27-28, 10am-3pm

Jasmina Vučković took up the residency at The Kilns at Te Horo intent on exploring shipwrecks and strandings on small islands, drawing on personal experience and a global view. But the view from the window at the



Doreen Blumhardt Studio has now taken Jasmina's work in another direction. Come and view the ceramic art Jasmina has created before she returns to England to become Senior Ceramic Conservator at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

## SOUP SUNDAY 28 SEP 12-2pm

Te Horo Hall. 56 School Rd, Kapiti

The Mirek Smíšek Arts Trust hope you can come to a fundraiser to support the Artist in Residence program.

Choose your ceramic bowl and fill it with delicious soup. And enjoy live entertainment from Timberline. \$45 pp (includes ceramic bowl to take home)

Secure your tickets at [TheKilnsatTeHoro.co.nz](http://TheKilnsatTeHoro.co.nz)  
<https://www.thekilnsattehoro.co.nz/products/soup-sunday>



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Or the [Otaki Gardens' Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/otakigardens)

## ART GALLERIES & ARTISTS

**ANNA BRADBURY | ANNABEE ARTS:** 85 Lupin Rd. 022 643 9794. Painting, drawing, jewellery..

**ARIANA SUMMERS | HEI TIKI TOI:** Woodwork. 24 Iiti St. 021 990 566, and Ben Keene 021 205 6052.

**ATB TATTOO STUDIO & GALLERY** Arthur St. [abandonthebox.co.nz](http://abandonthebox.co.nz)

**BRENDA GROEN | BG POTTERY** 153A Tasman Rd. Find your special one-off piece for the garden or inside.

**BRENT CRAIG | AWATEA POTTERY:** 19 Hadfield Rd, Peka Peka. 027 242 7572. Brightly coloured, functional domestic stoneware.

**BEE DOUGHTY PRATT | THE SHED ON TITOKI** 4 Titoki St..

**BIRGIT MOFFATT:** 32 Parenga Rd, Ōtaki Gorge. 022 460 2695. [birgitmoffatt.com](http://birgitmoffatt.com)

**CLAIRE CROCKER** 54 Old Hautere Rd, Hautere. With a focus on flowers, enjoy a journey of colour identifying with common New Zealand garden and country scenes.

**FINLEY MCLUCKIE STUDIO** 42 Kirk St. A young, unique look into NZ landscapes, nature and Finley's own imaginary world.

**HANNEKE KOOP:** Ceramics, pottery, textiles. 144 Te Waka Rd, Te Horo. [hankoop@gmail.com](mailto:hankoop@gmail.com)

**THE HORI GALLERY:** 84 Moana St, Ōtaki Beach. [thehori.co.nz](http://thehori.co.nz)

**JAILHOUSE POTTERY:** Jennifer Turnbull, 3 Iiti St, Ōtaki. 021 295 7473. [jenniferturnbull.co.nz](http://jenniferturnbull.co.nz)

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

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

**KARL ANDREWS:** Painter, [karlandrews.art](http://karlandrews.art)

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

**KENO SCULPTURES** 7 Byron Brown Place, Ōtaki Beach. 021 855 088. [kenosculpture.co.nz](http://kenosculpture.co.nz)

**GREG MOFFATT | KUKU CREATIVE** 021 209 5912, [kukumogs@gmail.com](mailto:kukumogs@gmail.com)

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

**LORNA TAWHITI:** [may15tattoo.com](http://may15tattoo.com) e: [lorna@may15tattoo.com](mailto:lorna@may15tattoo.com)

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

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

**SUMMERSTONE POTTERY STUDIO GALLERY:** 89 Ringawhati Rd. **MIKE PAGE** Functional and non functional pieces of art. **JUDY PAGE** sculptural and functional art.

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

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

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

**REBECCA NEAL CERAMICS** 89 Ringawhati Rd. Colourful, domestic, decorative ceramics.

**RICHARD WELLS ART STUDIO:** 26 Waitohu Valley Rd. Landscapes, birds and flowers.

**ROD GRAHAM:** Clayworks, 35 Ngaio St,

Ōtaki Beach. 027 445 7545.

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

**ROSEMARY MORTIMER:** Printmaker. 306 Te Waka Rd, Te Horo. 027 236 7343 [rosemarmortimer.com](http://rosemarmortimer.com)

**SARAH BROCK:** 12B Bell St Figurative sculptor and tutor.

**SONIA SAVAGE | SAVAGE ART:** 35 Ngaio St, Ōtaki Beach. 027 244 7322.

**SEAGRASS GALLERY:** Grant Stevenson, 38 Moana St, Ōtaki Beach. 027 231 4643. [seagrassgallery.co.nz](http://seagrassgallery.co.nz)

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

**SHONA SHERRIFF | BLUE DUCK CERAMICS** 153A Tasman Rd. Functional and colourful pieces.

**STACEY YOUNG | THE TAILOR'S WIFE,** 8 Freemans Rd. Tactile tableware, candle sticks, goddess figurines.

**STEVE SCOTT | KAPTURE PHOTOGRAPHY & DESIGN** 44 Miro St. Specialising in photography and sculptural work.

**STUDIO RESET:** Encaustic artist. [www.studioreset.art](http://www.studioreset.art)

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## Whānau connections that run deep



Rev Marie Collin at Rangiatea Church.

Photo: Ōtaki Today

**By Reverend Marie Ramari Collin (nee Akuira)**

Tenei te mihi atu ki te Atua, me te whānau i te hāpori o Ōtaki. Tēnā koe Debbi kōrua ko lan, kia whakamohio atu ana ahau ki a kōrua he pukumahi ahau i te rohe o Rangiatea.

I was born in Masterton but spent part of my childhood living in Ōtaki with my Nan, Ramari (Marley) Ropata (nee Hawea).



My whānau connections run deep – my first cousins from Mum's side come from the Winiata, Nikora, Box, Ropata, Haeata, and Mason families.

We cousins often gathered at Temuera Street or at the pah, "Katihihi by the sea."

My working life began in Masterton, but in 1977 I moved to Australia, where I lived for 27 years.

Life there was full of new experiences

– I worked in offices across NSW and Queensland, spent time on fishing trawlers, did debt collection, and even worked as a brickie's labourer. During that time, I began learning te reo. My kaiako were Christian, and thus began my journey with the Lord, about 30-plus years ago now.

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia is made up of three distinct cultural streams: Tikanga Māori, Tikanga Pākehā, and Tikanga Pacifica. Each operates independently.

Rangiatea Church, which sits under Tikanga Māori, is unique and symbolic of the relationship between Te Rauparaha (Rangatira o Ngāti Toa) and Bishop Octavious Hadfield (Missionary of CMS).

For the past five years I have been a member of the ministry training team for Te Hui Amorangi ki Te Upoko o te Ika under the leadership of Te Pihopa Waitohiariki Quayle.

Our ministry is grounded in key kaupapa that shape both our daily practice and our learning journey. Wairuatanga (spirituality), Manaakitanga (hospitality), Atuatanga (theology), and Karaitianatanga (Christianity) are not only central to how we serve but are also deeply embedded in the training provided through Te Hui Amorangi ki te Upoko o te Ika.



## Nanny's spaghetti bolognese

Spag Bol is a family favourite for many families. A quick and easy recipe, that doesn't cost an arm and a leg, and is super delicious. It's a go-to for a rich and satisfying weeknight dinner. My Nan's Spaghetti Bolognese recipe only takes minutes to prepare – simple ingredients, without skimping on taste.

500 grams mince  
1x onion  
1x can tomato soup  
Some tomato paste, GF soya sauce.  
Some garlic, ginger, salt and pepper.  
Some lemon juice.

Cook the onions and mince together, adding all other ingredients as you go. Lastly, once everything is cooked, add the can of tomato soup.

Cook spaghetti-al dente for adults. Well cooked for tamariki and mokopuna.

Serve, cooked spaghetti, mince and grated cheese on top.



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# Hydrogen pilot powers Te Horo homes

By Ian Carson

**Fourteen Te Horo households are benefiting from a pioneering hydrogen energy project.**

The homes in Te Horo receive a 10 percent hydrogen blend in their natural gas supply, marking New Zealand’s first hydrogen blending pilot to deliver renewable gas directly into homes. The 14 consumers are east-west between Pokenamu Road and the expressway, and Te Horo Beach Road in the north.

The pilot is a joint effort by Firstgas (part of Clarus), GasNet, Nova Energy, Powerco, and Vector, and represents the culmination of more than five years of planning, engineering assessments, and regulatory approvals. The hydrogen blend is delivered through the existing gas distribution network, demonstrating that New Zealand’s current infrastructure is capable of safely transporting low levels of hydrogen.

A Clarus spokesperson told *Ōtaki Today* Te Horo was chosen because of its small and accessible location and pipeline compatibility.

The pilot is working with 14 local households who are receiving the blended gas in their home appliances. The spokesperson said there were no plans to extend the pilot to include more of Te Horo because it was always intended to be carried out on the existing network, which is about 7km of pipeline.

Firstgas and its partners have contributed to the Te Horo community through funding for earthquake strengthening of the Te Horo Hall.

James Irvine, general manager of future fuels at Clarus, says the supply milestone demonstrated at Te Horo is a key step in preparing the country for a more sustainable energy future.



The hydrogen plant at Te Horo.

Photo supplied

“Our energy future will be shaped by a mix of options, and this work helps us understand the option of hydrogen blending,” he says. “Reaching the 10 percent milestone demonstrates the feasibility of using New Zealand’s existing gas infrastructure to transport hydrogen.”

Hydrogen blending involves mixing hydrogen gas into the natural gas supply, allowing energy providers to test how pipelines and household appliances respond to the new fuel. The current 10 percent blend by volume equates to about 3 percent hydrogen by energy delivered.

WorkSafe New Zealand has been closely involved in the pilot, with Firstgas granted two regulatory exemptions under Gas Regulations 2010 to proceed.

Mark Wogan, energy safety manager at

WorkSafe, says safety has been a central focus from the start.

“We were pleased Firstgas engaged with us early in their preparations to ensure safety for consumers, the public, and workers,” he says. “This included sharing engineering studies to assess the suitability of the network. We continue to monitor progress with interest.”

As part of the pilot, a hydrogen blend display home has been established in Te Horo, showcasing how standard appliances operate on the blended gas for everyday tasks like cooking and heating. Councillors, community board members and MP Tim Costley were hosted there at an open day on August 29.

“The display home allows us to show what’s possible while we gather evidence to inform the development of renewable gases in New

Zealand,” James Irvine says. “It’s not about introducing hydrogen into every household, but about proving that our networks and infrastructure can be ready, if and when hydrogen is widely available.”

Hydrogen is increasingly seen as a key player in the global transition to low-emissions energy. Internationally, countries such as the UK, US, Canada, Japan, and Australia are already blending hydrogen into gas networks. In Canada, Enbridge is supplying a 5 percent hydrogen blend to more than 3600 customers in Ontario, including factories, public buildings, and institutions.

While hydrogen is currently more expensive to produce than natural gas, costs are expected to drop as production increases globally and technology matures.

“Right now, hydrogen does cost more than natural gas, but that’s exactly why pilots like this are important,” James says. “By proving the infrastructure, safety case, and technical feasibility, we’re helping New Zealand get ready to take advantage of hydrogen if it becomes more available and affordable – just as we’ve seen happen with solar.”

He likened the pilot to early hybrid car trials, once considered niche, but now commonplace as EVs gain widespread adoption.

“This milestone is about more than just a percentage blend. It shows that, with industry collaboration and regulatory oversight, we can trial new technologies safely, learn from them, and be ready with credible options for the future.”

The pilot will continue with ongoing monitoring and evaluation, contributing valuable data to support potential future scale-up across the country.

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CAM'S CORNER: CAM BUTLER

Mixed emotions  
at last meeting

*Tēnā koutou i te whānau.*  
**Last meeting of the triennium**

It was both happy and sad that we held our last community board meeting on September 2. Happy in that we had done so much in the past three years as I noted in my chair's report, but sad that there could be a different make-up to the board next meeting. Will that make-up work as well? Can't say how it will work from this side of the election and it's up to the people elected to make that happen.

**Old SH1 revocation works**  
You will have noticed the progress on the old highway, with the Waeranga Road intersection now free of hit sticks, allowing normal operation. By the time of publishing the work at the carpark opposite New World should be finished as well. Please be patient, with the work being done in small chunks to minimise disruption. It does mean it will take longer overall. Also there will be a break in construction works over the December/January period to give retailers and community a holiday from the works.

**Roundabout rodeos**  
The new wastewater pipe is now getting to the Mill Road and Old SH1 roundabout so the next two months are going to be frustrating for motorists. There's no way around it, sorry. The pipe needs to get across the Old SH1 roundabout then head into the reserve. At the community board meeting we were advised that in the new year the pipe will continue under the expressway and along Rahui Road to Freemans Road, and into Te Roto Road as well. So expect disruption there, folks.

**Road surface issues**  
At the moment we have a guarantee that Aotaki Street from Riverbank Road to Kauri Street will be completely resurfaced. We are working on getting more resurfaced.

**Reservoir 2**  
Now that reservoir 1 is finished and being filled, the KCDC team has been working on a second, smaller reservoir to supply the plateau area. The location is set and plans are being drawn up for the pipe laying alongside Waitohu Valley Road, which will happen first. Keep being Sunny, Ōtaki.

- Like our FB page - Ōtaki Community Board: [facebook.com/Otakicommunityboard](https://facebook.com/Otakicommunityboard)
- Cam is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board.

THE ELECTORATE: TIM COSTLEY, MP

Local hydrogen house a New Zealand first

**Recently I visited New Zealand's first "hydrogen house", a house that runs on a blend of natural gas and hydrogen.**

The blending site at Te Horo is a Kiwi first, with 14 houses initially powered by this. Hydrogen is better for the environment, reducing the amount of carbon that gets burnt, and as this technology evolves it has the potential to be better for our economy, too.

Just think about how solar has evolved over the past decade.

The cost of heating a home has become too expensive, and New Zealand's transition from natural gas to coal from 2019-2023 was a huge step back for both energy prices and our beautiful environment. That's why I'm keen to support new initiatives like hydrogen, and I'm proud that our region is the location of this pilot programme by First Gas.

There is more work to do on power prices. New Zealand's four "gentailers" are currently able to charge small power companies more than they charge themselves for the same electricity.

That doesn't seem fair, so the rules are changing, meaning gentailers have to offer their power at the same rate to the other 62 power companies. This should lower prices by



**The technology of the hydrogen house being explained at Te Horo.**

increasing competition.  
Competition is one way we lower prices. We're changing the law to make it easier to build new supermarkets with faster consents,

replicable building designs all covered by one consent, and having one single build standard across every council region.

Costco have already said this will help them expand across New Zealand, bringing more local competition to our regions.

Competition also helps lower building prices. We're opening the door to new building products from overseas, as well as making it easier and faster to build a house. This is part of the biggest building reforms since 2004, and involves law changes to allow for quicker and easier consents, protecting ratepayers from footing the bill for shoddy work. This is all about making it cheaper to build a house.

We suffered from years of high interest rates and high price increases, and the cumulative effect of less money available to families to spend can take years for families and businesses to recover from. But we are making progress. The average mortgage is \$8000 per year cheaper today than at the election. That makes a huge difference to the family budget!

Whether you're building a house, buying a house, heating a house, or feeding a household, we're focused on making life affordable.

■ Tim is the Ōtaki electorate MP

TE HORO OUTLOOK: MICHAEL MOORE

Te Horo garden trail returns after six years

**After a six-year break, the much-loved Te Horo Garden Trail is back – and it promises to be a real highlight on the Kāpiti Coast calendar.**

Mark the dates: Saturday and Sunday November 15-16, when visitors will be welcomed into some of the region's most stunning private gardens, many of which are rarely open to the public.

This two-day, self-drive (or cycle) event offers the chance to explore 15 beautiful local rural gardens, each one reflecting the diverse landscapes and land uses of the Te Horo area – from the sea to the hills.

Whether you're a keen gardener, a casual admirer, or simply curious about what lies beyond the gates, the trail is a wonderful way to enjoy the creativity and hard work of our community.

But the trail is more than just about



gardens. Visitors can also discover some of Te Horo's unique attractions, including the historic Kilns at Te Horo, our much-loved beach and striking new environmental murals that showcase local creativity and care for the land.

Together, they tell the story of a rural community that values both its heritage and its environment.

With hundreds of visitors expected from throughout the Wellington region and beyond, the garden trail is also a boost for our local community. The Te Horo Hall will serve as trail headquarters, hosting a vibrant

garden market and café – the perfect spot to pause for refreshments and stock up on plants, crafts, and garden-inspired goodies.

Tickets for the trail are available now, with full details on Te Horo Hall's website: [TeHoroHall.org.nz](https://TeHoroHall.org.nz). They can also be purchased locally from: Te Horo Garden Centre, Watson's Garden Centre, Ōtaki; Harrison's Gardenworld, Peka Peka; Palmers Garden Centre, Plimmerton; and The Garden Depot, Levin.

The Te Horo Garden Trail is a celebration of gardens, creativity, and rural life – a chance to connect with our landscape and each other.

So gather some friends, plan your route, and make a weekend of it. After six years, it's wonderful to see this special event return.

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



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# Bias and the consequences of snap judgement

**We mere mortals function with brains evolved for survival. Or so we are told.**

But how else to explain why we so often “judge a book by its cover”? Our instinctive biases seem to slip into giant prejudices at the drop of a hat.

Consider how swiftly assumptions arise: someone whose favourite meal is lettuce, alfalfa, nuts, feta, and tofu might instantly be labelled a “greenie” or worse, presumed to be a woman.

Or think of the stereotype attached to a person driving a black SUV, who favours munching bloody beef, Texas-style sauce, drinking whiskey and puffing on cigars – perhaps assumed to be a selfish driver on the road, “politically red-neck,” likely a bloke.

JUST A THOUGHT



FRASER CARSON

I recall with some embarrassment my initial assumptions during the first visit of a company’s chief executive and their assistant to my office years ago. In the reception area stood a tall, older man in a dark suit, immaculate and poised, beside a younger woman in a floral dress, modest and unadorned.

Having greeted the pair, we moved to a meeting room. It was the woman who sat directly opposite me and took command of the conversation while the older man drew a pen and pad from his pocket to take notes.

I was grateful my oafish presumptions – such



as wondering aloud what the woman thought of working for “Mr Travers” – remained unsaid. In listening to the chief executive, I chided myself for my hasty judgements, imagining my guests internally amused by an all-too-common scenario.

There is some solace in recognising that we all carry conscious or unconscious biases – perhaps evolutionary by design. For early humans, identifying a large, fanged animal as dangerous, or a small, wide-eyed creature as harmless, could be a matter of survival.

Think of bias like a website cache: a technical trick that speeds up loading by storing previous content. While this makes for faster access, it also means new information is slower to appear. Similarly, our brains rely on quick judgements formed from past experiences, but no doubt this can also hinder our ability to adapt to new realities.

Taking this analogy, maybe our ancient survival instincts allow us to make snap judgements, but it’s perhaps a lot less helpful in our twenty-first century world where life and death situations are not exactly daily occurrences.

Yet, evolution from the cave persists so that we can be inclined to rush our judgements – we dislike a neighbour for 30 years just because on the first meeting he wore a dirty gardening shirt, or the wrong person was appointed to a job because the best candidate had a strong Middle Eastern accent.

As another evolutionary trait, we humans also possess a highly developed brain – the capacity for observation and reason. For example, what should we make of those small black and red berries which, at first glance, look poisonous and will kill you if too many are swallowed? On

*Now, as we navigate a world increasingly shaped by instantaneous AI-driven answers, perhaps our greatest asset is a willingness to slow down. For all our ingrained biases and reflexive judgements, taking a moment to think critically can be the difference between a gross error, or a greater understanding.*

the other hand, a little scientific testing can tell us they are actually highly nutritious and very edible?

The irony is that in today’s high information digital world, algorithms often confine us to echo chambers where rushed judgements and simple biases can solidify even more into outright prejudice, with “othering” becoming a source of identity for many.

Now, as we navigate a world increasingly shaped by instantaneous AI-driven answers, perhaps our greatest asset is a willingness to slow down. For all our ingrained biases and reflexive judgements, taking a moment to think critically can be the difference between a gross error, or a greater understanding.

■ Fraser is founder of the community-building websites [flightdec.com](http://flightdec.com), [redoar.net](http://redoar.net) and [inhub.org.nz](http://inhub.org.nz)



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ŌTAKI COMMUNITY: SIMON BLACK

# Elections just around corner

Have you noticed the billboards popping up around town recently? That means local elections are just around the corner.

Every three years we choose who will represent us on the Kāpiti Coast District and Greater Wellington Regional councils – including the mayor, ward and districtwide councillors, and our community board members here in Ōtaki.



These people make decisions that affect our daily lives, so it's worth taking the time to find out who they are and what they stand for.

Here are some thoughts on how to choose your candidates: Start at [policy.nz/2025](http://policy.nz/2025) to compare profiles and policies. Look at candidates' websites and Facebook pages. Are they approachable? Do their priorities line up with what matters to you? Do they speak to the challenges and opportunities we see, especially in Ōtaki?

Qualities you might look for:

- experience – in elected roles, business, or governance
- results – what they've delivered if they've served before
- teamwork – being constructive and collaborative around the table
- drive – it's a three-year commitment.

Talk with friends and whānau, compare policies, and read up on issues you're unsure about.

Key dates for voters:

- September 9–22: Voting papers delivered
- October 7: Last day to post your vote
- October 11, 12 noon: Election Day – voting closes.

Make sure you're enrolled at [vote.nz](http://vote.nz). Voting is by the STV (single transferable vote) system: simply rank candidates by preference 1, 2, 3, and so on. If your top choice doesn't make it through, your vote moves to your next preference.

Make your vote count.  
■ Simon is deputy chair of the Ōtaki Community Board



**TOWN CENTRE CONCEPT:** Architect and current councillor Rob Kofoed has revealed his idea for a new town centre for Ōtaki. A revamp of the town centre was part of recent Vision Ōtaki public consultation. Rob has presented his plan to the council's finance and strategy committee, including iwi representatives, and is expecting the concept to get traction as a "benchmark" for Ōtaki. The concept focuses on the block where the current library and Memorial Hall stand, bordered by Main, Aotaki and Rangitira streets. Rob says there's money available in the Long-term Plan, and that construction could be achieved through council partnerships with firms, as well as development levies. He says the existing buildings are tired and earthquake risks, offering an opportunity for consultation on replacements. Consultation on the future of the town centre is expected to be done within the next year.

## Forestry future theme of public talk

**Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment staff are coming to Ōtaki to give a public talk about the future of forestry.**

The talk will look at a recent report warning that New Zealand needs to take a "long hard look" at its approach to forestry. "Are we establishing the forests we want in the long run," asks commissioner Simon Upton. "Our policies, particularly settings

under the current New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme, are driving a wave of land use change to carbon forestry with significant environmental, economic and social risks."

The talk is hosted by Ōtaki Carbon Forests, under the umbrella of Energise Ōtaki.  
■ *Rethinking Afforestation in Aotearoa*  
7pm, Thursday September 25, Rotary Lounge, Aotaki St, Ōtaki

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# Writer initiative shows ‘rich history of storytelling’

By Nicky Treadwell

Local author Tihema Baker (Raukawa te Au ki te Tonga, Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai, and Ngāti Toa Rangatira) recently attended a function that concluded the inaugural In Other Words Ōtaki residential writer’s programme held recently in Ōtaki.

Invited to speak at, and to read an excerpt from his upcoming novel *Lucid*, Tihema, who has published several books, supported the initiative and hoped that it also “demonstrated the rich history of, and love for, storytelling that Ōtaki has”.

His new novel differs from those already published, which include the satirical novel *Turncoat* and the trilogy written for young adults. Tihema describes the new novel as a narrative about a “young Māori father who is struggling to cope with life as a new parent”.

“As a lucid dreamer, he relies on this ability as a means of escape from the pressures of parenthood, work, and the political reality of Aotearoa right now. But there is an entity that stalks his dreams, which grows more powerful the harder life seems to get.

“When the entity starts to appear when he is awake, the line between dream and reality becomes blurred.



Tihema Baker, whose use of the sci-fi genre is not simply a story-telling technique, but as he says, the genre “is often a vehicle for social commentary by default”.

Photo supplied

The book is a commentary on the mental health of young Māori men and fathers,” he says.

His use of the sci-fi genre is not

simply a story-telling technique, but as he says, the genre “is often a vehicle for social commentary by default”.

“A lot of people don’t seem to appreciate this. *Star Wars* is essentially a commentary on the rise of a fascist dictatorship. *Dune* is literally about the colonisation of another planet to exploit its natural resources. So I guess you could say I’m using that genre to make social commentary on issues more relevant to us here in Aotearoa, but I’m by no means the first to do so.”

Contemporary authors who have inspired his writing include other writers from Aotearoa, particularly Māori writers.

“I’ve had the benefit of a great mentor and friend in Tina Makereti, and some other writers who have recently influenced my work include Michelle Rahurahu, Emma Hislop, and Nadine Hura. I’m also a member of the Lawrence & Gibson writers collective, so have had huge support from writers like Brannavan Gnanalingam, Murdoch Stephens, and Thomasin Sleigh.”

Tihema’s writings initially stemmed from his academic career, through which he gained a masters degree from the Institute of Modern Letters at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University. Now working as a Māori capability advisor, his writings have a relevance beyond the literary.

## Ōtaki Sports Club celebrates centenary

from page 32

Daryl McLaren, a keen tennis player, was club president in 1976 when the local tennis club combined with local squash players to form the Ōtaki Tennis and Squash Club and moved into the then brand-new Haruātai Park clubrooms.

Daryl is one of the keynote speakers at our centenary celebration this month, and his still strong fondness for the club speaks volumes for the deep support Ōtaki Sports Club has in our community.

The Moore whānau is another great example of the club’s deep community roots.

David Moore was a president of the squash and tennis club in the 1970s. His son, Pātaka, this year won the club’s men’s doubles tennis title for the fourth time (with partner Callan Nikora), his daughter Ema is a member of our te reo Māori mixed doubles interclub team, and his granddaughter Pareraukawa made her first appearance for a club tennis team earlier this year.

The Whiterod whānau, too, have deep connections. Emma played in club tennis teams as a teenager in the 1990s alongside her parents (Don and Amiria, a long-time club captain in the 1980s and 90s), and over the past couple of years has been a winner of several club titles.

For continuous longevity, retired local pharmacist Robert Lindsay is maybe the club’s record holder: Robert recently signed up for the 2025/26 season, having done so every year since 1988, he reckons.

Others such as Rod Agar, Matt Coxon, Paddy Ludlam and Hamish Sweetman also come to mind for their strong service in the past to the club, and we are very thankful to community legends, such as them, for building the lasting foundations on which the club stands today.

Earlier this month, former member Max Hooper donated a big stash of old squash and tennis racquets that will be perfect for children’s training. A kind gesture, and another affirming community story in the history of Ōtaki Sports Club.

And all these stories are just a very few of the hundreds of stories of people who have been part of one of the outstanding community organisations in the history of our town.

Why not come and join us, get active and create some awesome life stories of your own?



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# MAHI MĀRA/Gardening

## Crispy celery – get plenty in a small space

Homegrown celery is so efficient and delicious, gifting a lot of crop in a small space.

By regularly harvesting the big, outside stalks, you inspire fresh, new ones. In this way, a happy celery plant can perpetuate for years.

**Plant:** For crunchy, string-less celery, two things are key: water and a thriving soil. Exactly the same as all crops, though celery needs a little more moisture, and a little more nourishment because they have small roots and can't reach out if they need extra.

Start with good sized seedlings that have 4-5 leaves and a root that fills the plug tray nicely. Soak before planting and water the bottom of the planting hole, to encourage roots deep. Plant them close together for nice long stems.

Homemade compost is the perfect base, driving the thriving soil life that is at the heart of crop health. From there you can add vermicastings to boost minerals and retain moisture, or lay kelp or well rotten manure, then top with a homemade mulch.

**Timing and tricky sites:** A fave spring spot is the east side of our compost bins where the soil is well nourished, stays moist and in the height of summer is in afternoon shade. Gardens with hot dry summers should follow suit. If celery dries out, stalks will be stringy, super spicy and small. Celery do best in the cooler shoulder seasons.

In colder zones, celery grows really well and rust

free, in the greenhouse year round. In hotter places, outside will be your best bet – consider growing seedlings beneath a tall cloche to reduce rust if you live in a high rainfall area.

- On really dry, or fast draining, sandy soils, choose the low spot of the garden – somewhere naturally moisture retentive, and use a bit more compost and mulch than you would for other crops.
- On poorly drained soils make a mound of compost and/or rotten hay to grow in.

**Keep health high + growth steady:** For best flavour and texture you want your celery to grow nice and steadily. Regular liquid feeds are always appreciated – think seaweed or comfrey. Monthly if all is well, as much as weekly if growth falters or pests or disease come calling.

Keep health high and new growth coming on by harvesting the biggest outside stalks in their prime. Remove any not so good stalks (gooey, spongy, rusty), and toss them in the compost. This keeps pests and diseases at bay, creates good light penetration and airflow, and keeps energy focused on the young.

**Keep it real:** Well looked-after celery can grow stalks that are a similar size to commercially grown ones, but mostly they're smaller. Let's not use size as our measure of success. Celery happiness is being crispy and tasty and free from the eye-watering amount of herbicides and pesticides in those gargantuan, plastic wrapped things in the supermarket.

■ *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.*



## How would you like your parks and reserves managed?

**Council manages over 130 parks and reserves on your behalf – from playgrounds and sports grounds to esplanades and native reserves.**

We're drafting an omnibus Reserve Management Plan to capture our community's vision for our reserves and set out objectives, policies and rules that guide their use, management, protection and development.

Let us know what you value about your favourite parks and reserves, what might impact their use and enjoyment, and what ideas you have for their future.

### Have your say

#### Online

- Go to [haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/RMP](https://haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/RMP) Drop a pin on your favourite parks and reserves, and tell us your thoughts.
- Email us at [haveyoursay@kapiticoast.govt.nz](mailto:haveyoursay@kapiticoast.govt.nz)

#### On paper

- Fill in a feedback form at one of our libraries or service centres.

#### In person

Come and chat to our Open Space Planning team:

**Saturday 6 September, 9am–1pm**  
Waikanae Park, old skatepark

**Saturday 6 September, 10am–2pm**  
St Peter's Village Hall, Paekākāriki

**Sunday 14 September, 9am–1pm**  
Ōtaki Centennial Park

Feedback closes 5pm  
Monday  
6 October



For more information visit:  
[haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/RMP](https://haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/RMP)



HAUORA-PŪTAIO /Health-Science

Promoting wellness is big business

The astoundingly lucrative wellness economy is booming; a global industry currently worth \$9 trillion that’s forecast to surge to \$14 trillion by 2027.

Wellness is defined as the active pursuit of activities, choices, and lifestyles that lead to a state of holistic health, a proactive journey toward optimal well-being.

It spans a diverse spectrum of offerings, including health spas, nutritional supplements, personal care products, alternative medicine services, and dietary and exercise programmes. The movement seeks to empower people to live life more fully,

enhance resilience, reduce the risk of chronic disease, and improve overall quality of life. What’s not to like?

But there’s a dark side. The wellness-industrial complex is a commercial marketing enterprise designed to sell you something; the pathway to wellness invariably involves buying something. Let the buyer beware. Talk of the importance of a healthy balanced diet quickly turns to the need to buy dietary supplements or nutraceuticals; the importance of exercise becomes the need to buy the latest new-fangled home exercise machine; quality sleep is essential so why not buy a self-help sleep programme, a herbal remedy, or a sleep app to help you unwind.

The wellness industry is not public health; it’s a privatised profit-making industry available to those who can afford it, an industry that excludes those most in need of better health and wellness – the poor and marginalised.

It’s an industry that often oversimplifies the complex and nuanced nature of health and wellness; complexity and nuance don’t sell products. For example, rather than talk about sustainable nutrition the wellness industry lures people in with the promise of simple quick fixes with juice cleansers, miracle supplements, or trendy special diets. Options that require you to buy something, and that sell hope more than health.

Frequently services and products are promoted without any solid scientific support, making them breeding grounds for misinformation and pseudoscience. For instance, pseudoscientific babble about “alkalising foods” leads people into unnecessarily restrictive diets and avoiding healthy foods; or you can fork out more than \$3000 for a light therapy kit for “quantum” light healing – that’s a lot of money for some colour filters and something powered by a standard Osram halogen bulb!

At its most harmful, the wellness industry promotes pseudoscience in ways that brazenly reject scientific consensus, erode public trust in scientific research, and undermine public health policy and trust in public health institutions.

The industry frequently embraces the naturalistic fallacy that if it’s natural it’s good, ignoring the fact natural products can be



The wellness industry often promotes the false idea that more is better – pushing people into behaviours like supplement stacking, chronic detoxing, and superfood overconsumption.

unsafe and being natural is not an assurance of effectiveness. And it often promotes the false idea that more is better – overlooking diminishing returns and safety limits – pushing people into behaviours like supplement stacking, chronic detoxing, and superfood overconsumption.

Social media wellness influencers, often lacking formal credentials or any health expertise, leverage their celebrity-like status to promote products and services using emotionally charged messaging that often lacks depth or factual accuracy.

The wellness industry plays on people’s anxieties about their health, but the relentless pursuit of perfect wellness, combined with a fear of making the wrong health choices, can create anxiety and stress – ironically eroding the very happiness and balance that wellness is meant to promote.

It is an industry that often positions itself as if it were an alternative to conventional medicine (for example, holistic health clinics that offer

a wide range of assessments and treatments) which may cause people to delay or forgo seeking medical attention for medical problems. The wellness industry is not medical care.

This article aims to shed light on some of the more troubling aspects of the wellness industry. That said, it’s important to acknowledge that the industry can serve a valuable purpose, and its stated mission to promote better health is commendable. But we should always remain mindful of the commercial agendas behind its products and services.

Decisions about your health are among the most important decisions you will make. It’s crucial those decisions are based on trustworthy, evidence-based information.

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.



DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

WALK IN VACCINATION  
CLINIC UPDATE

POST-PONED FOR AUGUST

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

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VACCINATED

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# PAKIHI/Business

## Don't rush it: why hiring poorly can stall your business

**E**ver rushed into hiring someone just to get the job done and then regretted it? You're not alone.

Across New Zealand, small and medium-sized business owners face one of the toughest challenges in business: finding, hiring, and keeping the right people.

Hiring poorly doesn't just cost money. It costs momentum, morale, and sometimes even your best staff. In fact, for many Kiwi businesses, one bad hire can undo months of progress.

### Why we rush

When a team member leaves unexpectedly, or when growth suddenly demands more hands,

the pressure is on. Owners often feel they need to fill the gap immediately. A CV lands in the inbox, a friend recommends "someone fantastic", or a quick coffee chat goes well, and the decision gets made. It feels

### YOUR BUSINESS



CHRIS WHELAN

like relief at first. But the cracks soon show. The wrong fit disrupts the team, drains time, and stalls productivity. In small teams, which make up most of our businesses, the ripple effect is brutal.

There are three big reasons rushed recruitment happens:

- Immediate needs – the pressure to replace someone quickly outweighs the patience to find the right person.
- Underestimating impact – owners don't always realise how much damage one poor hire can cause to culture and productivity.
- No system – recruitment is often ad hoc, left to gut instinct rather than a defined process.



### The cost of a bad hire

Here's the sting: a single bad hire can cost 30-50% of that person's annual salary. By the time you factor in recruitment costs, training, mistakes, lost sales, payouts, and the disruption to your team, the numbers add up fast.

But the bigger cost is cultural. One toxic person – no matter how skilled – can drag down your best performers. In New Zealand's smaller workplaces, that effect multiplies.

### The four Cs of hiring

So how do you avoid the trap? I use what I call the four Cs:

- Character – will they do the right thing when no one is watching?
- Calling – do they feel "called" to this type of work, or is it just a paycheck?
- Chemistry – will they fit with your team and strengthen culture?
- Competence – do they actually have the skills to deliver?

Most owners jump straight to competence: "Can they do the job?" But competence without the other three is a disaster waiting to happen.

### Two client stories

I've seen this play out many times. Let's call one client "Joe". Joe knew exactly the type of person they needed and had even

mapped out a process to follow. But then a friend recommended someone "perfect". Joe made a lone wolf decision – no references, no structured interview, no input from the team.

It fell apart within months. The new hire clashed with the team, required a payout to leave, and caused unnecessary stress. Months of wasted energy, money, and momentum.

Now, contrast that with another client who said: "We don't recruit - we date." Their process was deliberate. First, a coffee chat. If that went well, the candidate met the business partners. Then they met leaders across the business. If anyone raised a red flag, the process stopped.

This approach tested character, calling, and chemistry before checking competence. The result? Stronger cultural fit and hires who stuck around and thrived.

### Thoughtful recruitment

Avoiding poor hires isn't rocket science – it's discipline. Here are a few practical steps:

Define your needs clearly – Write a job scorecard. Know the outcomes you want, not just the tasks.

Use structured interviews – Ask consistent questions that test all four Cs.

Involve others – Don't hire in isolation. Get perspectives from across your team.

Test in real scenarios – Give candidates a problem to solve. See how they think and act.

Onboard intentionally – A good start sets new hires up to succeed fast.

Think about it like sport. The All Blacks don't just ask, "Can you play halfback?" They ask: "Do you fit our system? Will you make the team better this season - and next?" Businesses should do the same.

### The payoff

Hiring thoughtfully isn't about slowing down for the sake of it. It's about building a high-performance community. Each hire should lift capability, culture, and momentum. The right people don't just do their job; they multiply your impact.

As Jim Collins famously said: "First who, then what." Get the right people on the bus, and everything else becomes easier.

So next time you're tempted to rush a hire, pause. Ask yourself: Am I filling a seat, or am I building the future of my business?

■ *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@wcbe.co.nz](mailto:chris@wcbe.co.nz) or 022 2332 669.*



### ŌTAKI COMMUNITY CLUB

#### VACANCY – DUTY MANAGER CASUAL

We are adding a new team member to our bar staff.

The Ōtaki RSA Community Club is situated north of Wellington on the beautiful Kāpiti Coast – for more information on our RSA please check [www.otakirsa.co.nz](http://www.otakirsa.co.nz)

The successful candidate will provide support to the Management and staff, to ensure the efficient running of bar operations and to provide pleasant and efficient service to customers while always ensuring compliance with relevant legislation. You will need to promote a harmonious working relationship between staff and customers, and be member focused always.

Applicants are required to successfully complete our induction process including police vetting, providing evidence of current duty managers licence, current drivers licence (without restrictions), and have up to date employment references.

Remuneration and hours of work will be discussed with the successful candidate.

Contact the Secretary/Manager at the Ōtaki RSA to apply: Sheryll Ridley 06 364 6221 or [otakirsa@extra.co.nz](mailto:otakirsa@extra.co.nz)

### MATTERS OF LAW

## Taking care of business – wills and EPAs

By Elizabeth Hughes

**A will is a legal document that outlines how you want your property to be distributed and who will take care of your affairs and loved ones.**

It's not always easy to think of what will happen after you die.

Preparing a will can be a stark reminder of your own mortality and can easily be written off as a task for another day when it feels more crucial or relevant to start planning what happens after you've gone.

It is estimated that only 50 percent of adults have a will. There's a common misconception that wills are needed only if you have a lot of assets or if you can foresee people contesting your wishes.

Regardless of what you own, having a will is extremely beneficial not only for you but also for your loved ones.

In your will you are able to include:

- your funeral arrangements
- any property you own
- any investments you have
- distribution of items of significant value or sentimental value
- people you wish to provide for or leave certain items to

- guardians to be appointed to any dependent children
- charities or organisations you wish to leave money to
- any other particulars you deem relevant.

Life is constantly changing and evolving. While having a will is important, ensuring it is up to date and reflects your current wishes is also important.

Life changes might include changing romantic partners, having children or grandchildren, or business ventures.

It is recommended that you review your will every few years or when a big life event happens to check that you have everything covered.

Another equally important document is an Enduring Powers of Attorney. Unlike a will, this comes into effect while you are still living.

Enduring Powers of Attorney allows you to keep control of who manages your affairs at a time in your life when you may be very vulnerable.

The document enables you to appoint a person (attorney) to look after your affairs if you ever lose mental capacity.

There are two types of Enduring Powers of Attorney that every person should put in place, namely:

- one for property (bank accounts, managing investments, etc)
- one for your personal care and welfare (where a person lives, what treatments they receive, etc).

If you lose capacity and do not have an Enduring Powers of Attorney in place, then it will be very difficult for your loved ones to deal with your matters. This will unnecessarily add stress to what is likely to already be a stressful time.

If there is nobody able to act for you or sign documents on your behalf, then your family would need to apply to the Family Court to be appointed as your property manager and welfare guardian. This is an expensive, time-consuming process that can be avoided by having EPAs in place.

Wills and Enduring Powers of Attorney may seem daunting, complicated or even unnecessary.

The team at Wakefields Lawyers are incredibly experienced and aim to make the process as smooth and straightforward as possible. You can call us on 04 970 3600 or send an email to [info@wakefieldslaw.com](mailto:info@wakefieldslaw.com) to book a consultation to discuss your needs today.

■ *Elizabeth is a senior solicitor for Wakefields Lawyers*



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

*Opening a café as her first business venture is “a big thing for me, but with the right staff it’s working well. I’ve also had great community support – everyone who’s come in is really supportive.”*

– Jacinta Ellison



Jacinta Ellison, who has recently reopened Hyde Park Village Café.

Photo Ōtaki Today

## Jacinta aims for ‘inviting café’ at Hyde Park

**Jacinta Ellison is on a mission to succeed in restoring Hyde Park Village Café to its former role as a hub for the Te Horo community.**

A café has been operating on and off for 20 or more years at the historic Hyde Park site, but a succession of hospitality operators has come and gone in more recent times. Jacinta, however, is confident that with a supportive new owner of the complex, who’s helping her with some mentoring, she will make it work.

Jacinta has enjoyed cooking for most of her life. She first became familiar with pots and pans at the age of 7, using her family cooking skills to provide nourishing food for homeless people.

And when she had some time on her hands during the Covid lockdowns, she completed a

course to hone her skills as a classic chef.

Hyde Park Village Café, however, is her first venture into business, which she admits is a bit scary, but also rewarding.

“It’s a big thing for me, but with the right staff it’s working well,” she says. “I’ve also had great community support – everyone who’s come in is really supportive.”

Before Jacinta opened the café in early August, she set about refreshing the decor, which had suffered from not being open for many months. Her father, a painter, freshened everything up with inviting, neutral colours.

“I’ve got a lot of family who can help,” she says with a smile.

The café can accommodate 62 customers in total, with up to 15 in an adjoining room that’s

ideal for groups that want to sit together or those who want to sit away from the bustle of the café.

There are plans for the room to be a speak easy, offering beer and bubbly wines.

Jacinta has five local staff, including herself. She’s mostly busy in the kitchen, but that’s where she feels at home.

“I enjoy cooking for people, and our customers seem to appreciate it.”

Jacinta is especially keen to draw locals back into the café, which until five years ago under Jackie Wood and daughter Amanda Corrigan, was the go-to for weekday coffee meet-ups and weekend brunches.

The strategy is to offer meals and counter food that’s not only affordable, but what customers actually want. Jacinta is keen to get

feedback on that – including what’s working well, and maybe not so well.

As a Waikanae resident, she says she’s getting to know the locals and their preferences – and the local suppliers, from whom she wants to source products as much as possible.

“I want to keep it local as much as I can.”

But making it a comfortable venue for customers is her priority.

“I just want it to be a local café where people can sit and enjoy.”

■ Hyde Park Village Café is at 8 Te Horo Beach Road, near the highway corner.  
Open 8.30am-4pm Tuesday to Sunday.  
Call: 06 364 2387  
Email: [tehoroparkcafe@gmail.com](mailto:tehoroparkcafe@gmail.com)  
Look for Hyde Park Village Café on Facebook.



06 364 7293

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HĪTŌRIA/History

The juggling of Ōtaki governance

Like many other towns, Ōtaki has had its fair share of being shuffled around between governing bodies, depending on things like population, economy and political tinkering.

The history of local governance in Aotearoa New Zealand reflects the evolving patchwork of colonisation and settlement. Where there were resources, there were people. When those resources could be shared beyond the initial settlement area, first a provincial structure, then a regional structure were born.

As the settled areas grew and flourished, a new system of governance was required to reflect each distinct area's particular needs. As a result, in 1876, the provincial system of government was replaced by local bodies, which in theory was a more democratic system in that constituents of the district were represented by a more focused approach to the growth to their own place.

With this new organisational system, Ōtaki became part of the Horowhenua District. Established in 1885, the Horowhenua County Council initially covered the area from Waikanae to Tokomaru, including Ōtaki.

By 1921, Ōtaki was at a size where it had earned the right to something more akin to self-governance and the Ōtaki Borough Council was established, replacing the Ōtaki Town Board. The previous chairman of the town board, James Poole, became Ōtaki's first mayor. Ōtaki Borough Council acquired the old Bank of New Zealand building in 1967, where it administered the borough, making

OUR HERITAGE



NICKY TREADWELL

decisions on the future of both the town and the surrounding area. During the 1960s, local body organisations sprouted up throughout the wider region. Paekakariki County Town was established in 1960, Paraparaumu County Town in 1967, Waikanae County Town in 1969. The Kāpiti Borough was established in 1974, and, at this stage, was still part of the Horowhenua United Council. This system remained until 1989, when local government reforms saw some of the local counties amalgamated into the new Kāpiti Coast District Council. Reaction to this big shift in local authority administration was not completely welcomed by the residents of the towns. The expansion northwards to include Waikanae and Ōtaki into the Greater Wellington region raised concerns over traffic, environmental damage, loss of privacy, and the destruction of





# ŌTAKI COLLEGE 1992



## GOT OLD PHOTOS?

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

**ŌTAKI COLLEGE FORM 3GU 1992.** These fine young people would be in their 40s now. If you can name them please let us know.

**It's white baiting season!**  
An unidentified man with bicycle and trailer attached heads off for a day's whitebaiting.

Photo:  
Horowhenua  
Historical Society Inc.  
Friday August 13, 1971



## Ōtaki River entrance tides September 12 - October 15

<https://www.metservice.com/marine/regions/kapiti-wellington/tides/locations/otaki-river-entrance>

Please note: The actual timing of high and low tide might differ from that provided here. Times are extrapolated from the nearest primary port for this location, so please take care.

		HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
FRI 12 SEP	00:27	06:43	12:54	19:05	-	
SAT 13 SEP	01:15	07:31	13:45	19:59	-	
SUN 14 SEP	02:11	08:25	14:45	21:05	-	
MON 15 SEP	03:17	09:31	16:02	22:23	-	
TUE 16 SEP	04:36	10:51	17:32	23:46	-	
WED 17 SEP	06:01	12:16	18:50	-	-	
THU 18 SEP	-	00:58	07:16	13:25	19:49	
FRI 19 SEP	-	01:54	08:11	14:17	20:34	
SAT 20 SEP	-	02:40	08:56	14:59	21:13	
SUN 21 SEP	-	03:20	09:33	15:37	21:48	
MON 22 SEP	-	03:56	10:07	16:11	22:20	
TUE 23 SEP	-	04:30	10:39	16:44	22:51	
WED 24 SEP	-	05:02	11:09	17:15	23:22	
THU 25 SEP	-	05:34	11:39	17:46	23:53	
FRI 26 SEP	-	06:05	12:10	18:19	-	
SAT 27 SEP	00:26	06:39	12:45	18:55	-	
SUN 28 SEP	01:04	08:17	14:25	20:40	-	
MON 29 SEP	02:50	09:02	15:17	21:38	-	
TUE 30 SEP	03:51	10:01	16:28	22:53	-	
WED 1 OCT	05:06	11:15	17:52	-	-	
THU 2 OCT	-	00:13	06:25	12:35	19:06	
FRI 3 OCT	-	01:21	07:33	13:42	20:03	
SAT 4 OCT	-	02:14	08:28	14:35	20:49	
SUN 5 OCT	-	03:00	09:14	15:20	21:31	
MON 6 OCT	-	03:43	09:57	16:02	22:12	
TUE 7 OCT	-	04:25	10:39	16:45	22:53	
WED 8 OCT	-	05:08	11:21	17:27	23:36	
THU 9 OCT	-	05:51	12:04	18:12	-	
FRI 10 OCT	00:21	06:36	12:48	18:59	-	

# Fifty years since historic land march

**FROM THE ARCHIVES:**  
**Te Ihi, Te Mana, Te Tapu, Maranga Rā!**  
**– 50th anniversary of the Māori Land March**

On September 14, 1975, a hīkoi led by Dame Whina Cooper set out from Te Hāpua in Northland to Parliament in Wellington, with the primary aim to protest against the continuing loss of Māori land.

About 5000 marchers arrived at Parliament on October 13, 1975, and presented a petition signed by 60,000 people to then Prime Minister Bill Rowling.

Known as the 1975 Māori Land March with “Not One More Acre” being the catch-cry, the hīkoi was a turning point in the history of Māori protest against the loss of their whenua, a re-awakening of an awareness to the injustices that were occurring.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the land march, Ngā Taonga will publish a blog featuring audiovisual taonga from the collection that speak to the significance of this historic protest and its enduring legacy.

The blog will be available in both te reo Māori and English on September 11 at [www.ngataonga.org.nz](http://www.ngataonga.org.nz).



The 1975 Māori Land March  
nears Wellington.  
Photo courtesy of TVNZ



# TAMARIKI FUN

## Snake found in Christchurch

A small live snake has been found inside a traveller's suitcase, after returning to Christchurch from Bali. It was wrapped around the toe of a jandal. Biosecurity New Zealand sent trained handlers to retrieve the snake, which is believed to be a non-venomous wolf snake, sometimes mistaken for a small boa. The snake will be euthanised, as snakes are not allowed in New Zealand. According to Biosecurity NZ, one or two snakes are found in the country each year, often in luggage or cargo. Most are already dead due to treatment processes at the border. Still, officials respond quickly to every report to keep NZ free of unwanted animals. Handlers receive special training, including time in Australia where they practice handling live snakes under expert supervision. Their skills are refreshed every two years. NZ has no native snake species, so keeping them out is very important for the country's environment.



sportnz.org.nz

## PLAY IS EASY!

It's fun and gets tamariki and whānau active and doesn't have to cost you anything! Take a look around your house, garden and neighbourhood and see what you turn into play. It's as easy as turning a box into a robot or sliding along the grass on it like a sled, skipping to school, or hanging out with friends or whānau and having some fun. Get creative with dress ups, head to your local reserve and explore, or take a ball to your local park for a game. The possibilities are endless. You just need to find a bit of time and space for your tamariki to have fun – and you can join in too!

When was the last time you played?



## Te Wiki o te Reo Māori

Māori Language Week, or Te Wiki o te Reo Māori, is an annual celebration that takes place September 15-22 this year. Its aim is to inspire New Zealanders to speak the Māori language proudly. How can you observe Māori Language Week? Learn some new words – at least a dozen before the week is up. Label rooms and furniture in your home. To make it more fun, get a friend to join you in learning. This way you can practice communicating in Māori. Correct your pronunciation – if you're not sure how to pronounce a word, ask a Māori friend or look it up online. Watch a Māori children's show with your children and encourage them to repeat the words and phrases. Ka rawe!



## WORD MAKER

SPRING

Can you make 130 words from SPRING?  
Answers below.



## RIDDLE

What has many rings  
but no fingers?  
Answer to the right.

### SPRING: WORD MAKER ANSWERS from above

5-letter words: 1. grips 2. pings 3. prigs 4. sprig 5. pirns 6. girns 7. gtins 8. rings. 4-letter words: 9. gips 10. grip 11. pigs 12. ping 13. prig 14. nips 15. pins 16. pin 17. rips 18. snips 19. gins 20. grin 21. grin 22. rigs 23. ring 24. sign 25. sing 26. rins. 3-letter words: 27. gip 28. pig 29. nip 30. pin 31. pis 32. psi 33. rip 34. sip 35. gin 36. gis 37. rig 38. sig 39. ins 40. rin 41. sin 42. sir 43. sri. 2-letter words: 44. pi 45. gi 46. in 47. is 48. si.



## Rat-a-tat-cat

A rat, measuring more than 55cm, has been found inside a house in Eston, North Yorkshire, England. Local councillors David Taylor and Stephen Martin shared a photo of the animal, noting that it was "almost the size of a small cat." Pest control workers safely removed the giant rodent from the home. The discovery raises concerns about rodent infestations in the area. The councillors explained that residents have reported more sightings of rats, showing that the problem is getting worse. They urged the local council to take stronger action against the growing number of pests. Among their suggestions are a full survey to check how many vermin are present, more funding for pest control services, and stronger teamwork between authorities, property owners, and experts. They warned that ignoring the issue could lead to even more infestations.

RIDDLE ANSWER:  
A phone



## CADE'S

Spring is here  
WORDSEARCH

S	B	Y	L	F	R	E	T	T	U	B	B
R	U	G	G	Q	J	S	O	R	P	L	E
E	M	P	P	O	S	B	A	C	O	H	C
W	B	T	H	A	A	I	C	S	L	N	E
O	L	E	R	Z	N	N	S	N	L	R	Y
L	E	G	N	B	M	O	U	K	E	X	A
F	B	L	O	I	M	K	O	A	N	G	A
V	E	W	A	I	H	C	Q	T	F	B	O
B	E	G	R	M	E	S	U	B	L	F	Q
M	S	N	P	M	B	M	N	D	I	L	T
S	R	E	W	O	H	S	T	U	Y	B	B
Q	C	U	J	X	G	L	O	L	S	J	F

BLOSSOM  
FAUNA  
KOANGA  
RAINBOW

BUMBLEBEES  
FLOWERS  
LAMBS  
SHOWERS

BUTTERFLY  
GRASS  
POLLEN  
SUNSHINE



THE CROSSWORD #1943J (answers below right)

1		2		3		4	5		6		7
					8						
9							10				
11						12					
				13							
	14	15					16				
17						18					19
20								21	22		
							23				
24						25					
26							27				

**SUDOKU PUZZLES** thepuzzlecompany.co.nz  
EASY #84H 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.

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

**CROSSWORD #1943L ACROSS:** 1. Immature, 7. Adapt, 8. The Chicks, 9. Tad, 10. Ream, 11. Mānuka, 13. Grin and bear it, 15. Naseby, 16. Quit, 18. BYO, 20. Tributary, 21. Essay, 22. Ensemble.  
**DOWN:** 1. Inter, 2. Moeraki, 3. Tahi, 4. Richard O’Brien, 5. Pasta, 6. Student, 7. Assumed, 12. Varsity, 13. Gobbler, 14. Rhubarb, 15. Noisy, 17. Thyme, 19. Dune.

- ACROSS
1. Not fully developed (8)  
7. Modify (5)  
8. New Zealand singing sibling duo in the 1960s (3,6)  
9. Bit, small amount (3)  
10. Paper measure (4)  
11. Native plant popular with honey bees (6)  
13. Suffer in a stoical manner (4,3,4,2)  
15. South Island ice festival town (6)  
16. Give up (4)  
18. Option at some restaurants (3)  
20. River or stream flowing in a lake (9)  
21. Composition (5)  
22. A group of musicians
- playing or singing together (8)
- DOWN
1. Bury (5)  
2. New Zealand beach famous for its boulders (7)  
3. One (Māori) (4)  
4. New Zealander who created The Rocky Horror Picture Show (7,6)  
5. Popular meal staple (5)  
6. Scholar (7)  
7. Took for granted (7)  
12. University (abbr) (7)  
13. Nickname for a turkey (7)  
14. Tart fruit usually served stewed (7)  
15. Loud (5)  
17. Herb (5)  
19. Sand hill (4)

GOT A GOOD NEWS STORY?

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or go to [otakitoday.com](http://otakitoday.com)  
and click the **Contact** link



**QUIZ ANSWERS FROM PAGE 18:** 1. Fraud. 2. d. 1954. 3. a. Mr Nice. 4. Venezuela, Papua New Guinea, Haiti, Afghanistan, South Africa, Honduras, Trinidad and Tobago, Syria, Jamaica, Peru. (\*rated by Numbeo. 5. Andorra (84.7); United Arab Emirates (84.5); Qatar (84.2); Taiwan (82.9); Oman (81.7); Isle Of Man (79.0); Hong Kong (China) (78.5); Armenia (77.9); Singapore (77.4); Japan (77.1). 6. Britain, Ireland, Norway, Iceland, and New Zealand. 7. Generally, in older times it meant that the defendant was so driven by his mental illness that he would’ve committed his crime even if he was standing right next to a cop. It’s a weak defense these days. . 8. In the 1970s, two rival gangs, the Mongrel Mob and Black Power, terrorized New Zealand. The Mongrel Mob, initially a Pākehā (New Zealander of European descent) gang from Wellington and Hawke’s Bay, became known for their violence and spread throughout the country. Black Power, formed in response to the Mongrel Mob and white power gangs, also expanded rapidly. 9. In 1895, Minnie Dean was convicted of murdering a baby and remains the only woman to be executed in New Zealand. 10. Arthur Allan Thomas. 11. Amy Bock 12. Hīmatangi tragedy.

? **NZ CRIME QUIZ**  
Answers page 19-

1. What is the most common crime in New Zealand?  
2. What year did Parker and Hulme, two Christchurch teenagers, commit murder? a. 1924 b. 1949 c. 1950 d. 1954  
3. What is the title of Greg Newbold’s book about his five years in New Zealand prisons? (Greg Newbold later became a Criminology Professor at the University of Canterbury).  
a. Mr Nice b. Hard Time c. Doing Time d. The Big Huey.  
4. Name 3 of the top 10 most dangerous countries in the world.  
5. And three of the safest countries in the world\*?  
6. Which are the five countries where police officers do not carry guns?  
7. What does the legal concept “At the Policeman’s Elbow” mean?  
8. What was the name of the gangs that terrorized New Zealand in the 1970s?  
9. Who was the only woman to be executed in New Zealand?  
10. Who was wrongly convicted of murdering his neighbors, the Crewes, and spent nine years in prison before being pardoned?  
11. In 1909 a notorious confidence trickster – in the guise of Percy Redwood – married Agnes Ottaway for her money. At her avidly followed trial, Redwood admitted to masquerading as a man, forgery, false pretences and theft. She received a two-year prison sentence. What was her name?  
12. On 6 September 1929 a farmhouse near Hīmatangi, burned to the ground, with four adults and four children perishing inside. What is this known as?

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From page 18  
SUDOKU SOLUTION #84H

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

**ŌTAKI HERITAGE AGM**  
Ōtaki Heritage Te Whare Pouhere Taonga o Ōtaki will soon be holding its Annual General Meeting.  
Guest speakers:  
**Representatives from Volunteer Kāpiti**  
*The role of volunteers in our community.*  
You are warmly invited to attend:  
Sunday 12 October, 2pm  
at the Museum, 49 Main St, Ōtaki.  
We’re looking for more people to join our Board of Trustees.  
Please contact us if you’re interested or you’d like to join our group of volunteers:  
[admin@otakimuseum.co.nz](mailto:admin@otakimuseum.co.nz)  
or 06 364 6886

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONE  
IN A FAMILY NOTICE  
Contact: 027 285 4729 [debby@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:debby@idmedia.co.nz)

**Horowhenua BRANCH**

**ŌTAKI MEETING**  
*The next Horowhenua Branch Meeting will be held in the Supper Room at Ōtaki Memorial Hall at 1.30pm on Monday 15th September.*  
Guest speaker: Peter Jones of Predator Free Kāpiti Coast.  
Learn about this new group and how you can be involved in predator control in your area.  
All are welcome to Forest & Bird’s Branch Meetings, and to join our guided walks, bird monitoring trips, mornings in our plant nursery and Prouse Bush working bees.  
For more information contact Claudia Mason (06) 367 0660 or Geoff Ritchie 027 373 4576.  
Join Forest & Bird (children can join our Kid’s Club: KCC), to protect the environment and enjoy the outdoors.



# TAKĀRO/Sport

## Ōtaki Sports Club celebrates 100

From church tennis court to big community institution

By Adam Shelton, Ōtaki Sports Club centenary convenor

**The first-ever tennis court in Ōtaki appeared in 1882 in the Rangiatea Church paddock, and in 1883 the first-ever local tennis club started up.**

Attempts to keep the club going were not always successful in following years. But fast forward to 1925, when Ōtaki tennis players were a tad more organised and set up the tennis club as an incorporated society.

Fast forward again, this time 100 years to 2025, and Ōtaki Sports Club today is still using that same 1925 incorporated society registration as its legal basis. And this month the club celebrates the centenary of our founding document.

Ōtaki Sports Club itself started in 1991, an amalgamation of the town's football (soccer) club and the squash and tennis club, and all three sports coming together in the clubrooms at Haruātai Park.

Founding president Danny Cramp, a keen football player, led the club through its first year followed next by Dave Cowpland, these days a life member for his service to the club and to Ōtaki football.

Football had been played in Ōtaki since 1974, and Ōtaki squash started soon after in 1976 with the opening that year of the newly-built clubrooms and squash courts at Haruātai Park.

It's a wonderful coincidence to have Ōtaki football's 50th birthday in 2024 and squash's 50th birthday in 2026, so close on both sides of this centenary celebration.

*continues page 23*



A photo taken at the start of the 1914 season for the Ōtaki Lawn Tennis Club, at the tennis court behind the Jubilee Hotel in Waerenga Road.  
*Photo courtesy of Ōtaki Heritage*

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# New World Ōtaki

## Congratulations Ōtaki Sports Club on their 100th anniversary

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**Ōtaki**