

ŌTAKI TODAY

Ngā kōrero o Ōtaki

ĀKUHATA/AUGUST 2026

otakitoday.com



Neighbour Ian McMillan stands at the fenceline where work has begun on a new housing development in Rangiuuru Road.

New Rangiuuru houses

By Ian Carson

Work has begun on a major new housing development in Ōtaki that will provide 46 affordable homes for local families and individuals.

The project at 254 Rangiuuru Road is being led by the Kāpiti Housing Solutions Trust (KHS), an independent charitable housing trust established by Kāpiti Coast District Council to help address the district's long-term housing needs.

The land, originally bought by the council for affordable housing, has been transferred to the trust, which is overseeing the planning, consenting and construction of the development. It's the trust's first development, made possible with funding from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

Resource consent for the project was granted by the council in May this year, and enabling

works, including site establishment, fencing and earthworks, were expected to begin from late July.

Neighbours say they support new housing, but they're not happy with communication. Ian McMillan says they got only a few days' notice of a public meeting on July 15.

"We knew the development was happening – and we're all in favour of affordable housing – but it's not really good enough to have a meeting to be told out of the blue that work would begin within two weeks," he says.

The development has been designed as a permanent community, with the housing trust

retaining ownership of the homes – renting rather than selling them. KHS says the aim is to provide warm, healthy and secure housing that remains affordable and well managed over the long term. The homes will be built in two stages. Stage one includes site-wide earthworks and infrastructure, followed by construction of the first 22 homes. A further 24 homes are planned for stage two, expected to begin in late 2027, subject to confirmation.

The finished development will include a mix of one, two, three and four-bedroom homes designed to blend with the surrounding neighbourhood.

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Whiti charge into final

By Frank Neill

Whiti te Rā ki Ōtaki is into the grand final of the Appleton Shield, the symbol of Wellington Rugby League supremacy.

The team plays Toa in the final on Saturday (August 8).

Whiti reached the final after defeating the Wainuiomata Lions 20-12 in the semi-final, played at Frederick Wise Park, Wainuiomata, on August 1. The victory was somewhat of an upset, as the Lions finished the round robin matches second on the table, while Whiti te Rā were third.

Whiti began the game strongly, with Mangaroa Manihera scoring a try after just six minutes. Seven minutes later Manaia Osborne dotted down and Aaron Whitikai kicked both conversions. Aaron added a penalty to give his team a 14-0 halftime lead.

The second half began just as the first half had, with Whiti hot on attack early in the spell. They were rewarded after just two minutes when Reariki Peneha scored. Aaron was once again successful with the conversion.

The Lions came back into the match soon after, however, scoring a try that was converted. With 10 minutes to play the Lions scored another converted try to trail by just eight points.

continues back page

Life after Loss

All of us grieve in different ways, even if we experience a similar loss, our feelings may be very different to someone else's. Grief is a process that we don't get over – we work through, and sometimes you may need help. Many emotions are felt during this time and can be a tremendous challenge to all of those involved.

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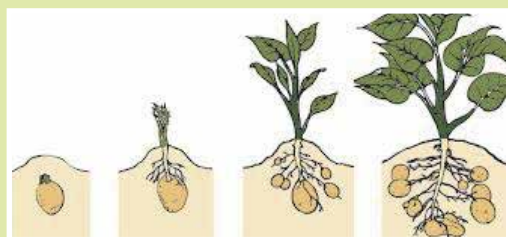


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ŌTAKI REPAIR CAFE Ōtaki Memorial Hall, Main St. 10am-2pm Sunday, September 6. With help from local volunteers, all sorts of treasures will be stitched, glued, sharpened and repaired, while shating skills and a good yarn along the way.

MULLED WINE Concert at 2.30pm on Sunday, August 16 features an afternoon of pastoral, nature-themed duos and solos. Auckland Philharmonia principal oboist Bede Hanley joins pianist Sarah Watkins for a wonderful opportunity to experience the lyricism of the oboe outside of an orchestral setting. Paekākāriki Memorial Hall, 98 The Parade. Tickets online from marygow@gmail.com Info: 021 101 9609.

STATIONHOUSE The Raven Ravens play at the Stationhouse Social Club – at Ōtaki Golf Club – on Thursday, August 20, to celebrate the release of their new album. Contact gregandanje@extra.co.nz or go to ravenravens of Facebook for tickets.

ZIMMERMANS The Zimmermans are back at St Peter's Village Hall, Paekākāriki, for their annual visit to the Kapiti Coast, 7.30pm August 23. New songs and old favourites from across Bob Dylan's seven decade career. The show encompasses folk, rock, blues, gospel, americana and more. Tickets from Humanitix or at the door.

ŌTAKI MUSEUM 49 Main St. 06 364-6886. New exhibition – *Te Tāone o Ōtaki: Ōtaki Town: 1920-1989*, which presents the town's changes during the years of Ōtaki Borough Council. Museum open 10am-2pm Thursday to Saturday, except public holidays.

ŌTAKI MARKET Old Main Highway, Ōtaki (opposite New World). Open 10am-2pm every 2nd Sunday during winter. .

OLD COURTHOUSE GALLERY 239 Main Highway, Ōtaki.

TOI MATARAU GALLERY Māoriland Hub, Main St, Ōtaki. Open Monday to Saturday 11am-4pm. See toi.maorilandfilm.co.nz

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

COMMUNITY BOARDS The next **Ōtaki Community Board** meeting at the Gertrude Atmore Supper Room is at 7pm on Tuesday, September 22. The next **Waikanae Community Board** meeting is 6.30pm on Tuesday, August 25, at Waikanae Community Centre, 28 Utauta St. The public is welcome at meetings. Search "meetings and agendas" at 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

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

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.

FAMILY HISTORY Join Ōtaki Family History Inc for monthly group meetings, 7.30pm 4th Tuesday of the month (Feb to Nov), at the Gertrude Atmore Supper Room.

POETRY IN ŌTAKI Third Friday of each month, 10.30-11.30am, Gertrude Atmore Supper Room. Call 021 050 1904 for details.

ŌTAKI STROKE SUPPORT GROUP: Meets for Sit and Be Fit classes, 10am Fridays 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.

ŌTAKI BUZZ CLUB for beekeeping enthusiasts. Meets every 3rd Wednesday 7pm at Waitohu School hall, Te Manuao Rd.

OTAKI WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB Family Hotel, Ōtaki. August 12, and September 9, 5:30-8:30pm. Email for further details: otakiwomensclub@outlook.com

SUSTAINABLE FASHION MARKET Memorial Hall, Waikanae. Saturday August 29, 10am-2pm. Check out NZ's largest sustainable fashion market. My Walk in Wardrobe brings you preloved, upcycled, vintage, handmade and locally made clothing, shoes, jewellery and accessories for all genders and sizes.

PAEKĀKĀRIKI MARKET DAY St Peters Village Hall, Cnr Beach Rd and Ames St, Paekākāriki. Saturday September 5, 10am-2pm.

To list an event, contact debbi@idmedia.co.nz

When combat cracks coalition

The spirited competition for votes on the right of the political spectrum is opening the ruling coalition to widespread public perceptions that it is unmanageable as an instrument of government.

Mercurial NZ First leader Winston Peters rightly perceived that National would be a reluctant participant in a slanging match about policy direction that allowed him to advance propositions appealing to niche segments of the population valuable to his minority vote collection.

But he poked the bear once, twice, or thrice times too often. Nicola Willis accepted the task of attack dog for National. Act's entry into the early stage of policy announcements and debate added to the range of her verbal sallies.

National's inherent appeal is its moderation as a free market, lightly capitalist, commonsense middle of the road centre-right party; conservative in inclination and values-based rather than single-issue inclined. Solutions to issues it confronts are assessed on the basis of "will they work" rather than "are they ideologically pure".

It is the moderation, commonsense tag that has been its mainstay in drawing a consistent breadth of public support over the past 90 years. Just as Labour down the years has drawn its adherents from the union movement and suffered losses of votes when it has strayed from its roots in "public solutions", National loses when it departs from broad appeal. Niche marketing is politically the mainstay of minor parties.

An upshot is that the quip of National's campaign director Simeon Brown that NZ First and Act are acting like two recalcitrant schoolboys in the face of National's coalition dominance looks more appropriate now than

it did when spoken at the National Party conference a month ago.

Few global trade experts gave Christopher Luxon much chance of achieving for New Zealand a free trade arrangement with India when he announced his intention before the

last general election. That he did underlines the offensiveness to National's hierarchy of the insinuation of NZ First's Shane Jones that Luxon grovelled so much to the Indian prime minister that he might need knee pads.

Politics involves achievement of the possible. Luxon achieved the improbable to the benefit of horticulturalists in Kāpiti and beyond, as well as wine growers, sheep farmers, and timber exporters. Country to country

negotiations on such matters more often than not entail a degree of give and take that in other circumstances might not arise. That Jones is as well versed as any National ministers in the demands of "give and take" – grovel and shout – in a political setting adds to ministers' irritation.

Traditionally under the First Past the Post electoral system, with Act supporters to the right and NZ First arguably to the left, most of these wrangles would have been settled behind closed doors at caucus meetings. Now, as an election approaches, each group fishes for public – not caucus – support.

But none of the three can guarantee that even if they are in government after polling day its policies will be enacted. The same applies to the left wing of the spectrum. Does Chloe Swarbrick really believe that Labour in office will support the tax policies of the Greens?

Peters and Jones gamble that Luxon and his lieutenants will never back away from a coalition agreement with NZ First; that their most open voter recruitment pool is disaffected National supporters, especially those who believe that

National has not been as decisive as they would like on a range of varying issues from Māori representation to RMA reform and electricity pricing.

It is not a gamble with a two-headed coin – heads I win and tails you lose! Rather, they face the prospect that they so undermine National that it is Labour they must join to achieve government – thus confirming National's jibe that NZ First can't be trusted.

There may also be a good deal of scepticism tarring NZ First following the candidacy for the party of radio's Michael Laws and the sign-up/step down process of ex-Labour minister Stuart Nash. Both were, and are, polarising figures when the party's prime appeal lies in a grey area of all things to all voters.

Nor should NZ First forget that Simeon Brown learnt his politics in the practical, hard-nosed school of south Auckland politics watched over by one-time Labour minister George Hawkins.

National considers itself home to a broad church of middle-class New Zealand. Within that majority slice of Kiwi society lies scope for initiatives that undercut the NZ First gamble.

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While NZ First gives new meaning to usual perceptions of "partnership," The Opportunities Party (Top) adds to the list of activities that may be termed Machiavellian. With a former Labour cabinet minister as its chief executive, the party has assembled a list of potential MPs that suggests it arose from academic discussion on the need for Labour to have a fresh potential partner in Parliament. Gone is the original Top financial influence of the multi-million-dollar Morgan family; "in" is taxation reform more suited to the clamour of the Greens and Labour membership.

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

POLITICS



BRUCE KOHN

CARTOON OF THE MONTH

By Jared Carson

Ups and downs for Ōtaki drivers.



MILL ROAD

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ŌTAKI TODAY *Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki*

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'Dangerous technique' led to death

By Ian Carson

A coroner has found that Ōtaki man Peter Boy Tuhi suffered fatal spinal injuries when he was taken to the ground by a police officer using what the Independent Police Conduct Authority (IPCA) has described as a dangerous technique.

Peter died at Wellington Hospital on December 22, 2021, a day after suffering blunt force trauma to his head and neck that caused a cervical spine fracture and spinal cord injury.

In findings released this week, Coroner Heather McKenzie concluded Peter died from complications of those injuries, with underlying osteoarthritis and acute alcohol intoxication contributing to the severity of the outcome.

The inquiry heard Peter had spent several hours drinking at Tony's Place in Levin before being asked to leave because of his intoxication. He returned to his vehicle at the Levin Cosmopolitan Club car park, where he became involved in an altercation with another man. Police were called after reports he was behaving

aggressively and attempting to drive.

When the attending officer – who the coroner said should not be named – tried to arrest Peter for assault, he resisted being handcuffed. During the struggle, the officer used a single-leg takedown technique to bring him to the ground. CCTV footage reviewed during the inquiry showed Peter was lifted off the ground and fell headfirst onto the asphalt while one arm remained handcuffed and the other was being held by a bystander attempting to assist police.

The IPCA found the officer was justified in arresting Peter and in using force to restrain him, but concluded the particular technique used was dangerous and the level of force was disproportionate and unreasonable given the level of resistance and risk posed by Peter, who was 65 and had hearing difficulties.

The authority described the manoeuvre as resembling a rugby spear tackle and found Peter was unable to use his hands to break his fall.

Police conducted their own investigation and reached a different conclusion, determining the officer's actions were reasonable, proportionate and lawful in the circumstances.

Coroner McKenzie noted the differing assessments, but said they related to the characterisation of the force used rather than the facts, which were captured on CCTV.

The coroner said it was not her role to determine criminal or disciplinary liability and declined to revisit the IPCA's conclusions. She also made no further recommendations, noting that police had already updated recruit training since Peter's death.

The revised training includes greater emphasis on controlled takedowns, the risks associated with taking people to the ground, scenario-based decision making, and four approved takedown techniques.

Peter's whānau argued that single-leg takedowns should be banned, but Coroner McKenzie said there was insufficient evidence before the court to support such a recommendation. She also noted she could not order a further criminal or employment investigation.

The coroner extended her condolences to Peter's whānau and acknowledged their extensive involvement throughout the inquiry.



Peter Tuhi. Photo Ōtaki Yesterday

Whānau remember 'good Kiwi man' generous with his time

Peter Tuhi's daughter told Ōtaki Today it was difficult to respond to the coroner's findings on her father's death.

"Much of the family is sitting in the emotive ranges of contempt, anger and disbelief," Aroha McAsey said.

"We are all at least somewhat satisfied that Coroner McKenzie has

given validity to the function of the IPCA in accepting their findings and recommendations."

Aroha said that for Peter's family, community and many mates, there remained no justification for the attempted arrest to have ended in the loss of life.

"For those of us who have been through the series of investigations,

back and forth with police, the IPCA and the Coroners Office, debating the rights and wrongs of the actions of all involved that day deepened the wound."

She said the pictures and CCTV footage of Peter's arrest showed that life was fleeting: "It's as vivid in our minds as we believe it would be for the police officer involved."

Rather than continue to debate the officer's response and actions, the whānau would rather remember with aroha the man known to them as "Sabu".

"He was the 'go to guy', the turn up for mahi man who was generous with his time.

"The play hard but play fair, loud shirt, sharp whistle guy. He was a

roadie, the crewman and a wingman, Mr Safety.

"A man as solid in nature as the timber he would fell.

"We choose to tip our hat to Pete for these of his traits as a good Kiwi man and know all of those who knew him will do the same."

Aroha said there would be a memorial for Peter later in the year.

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Local disc golf takes flight

By Ian Carson

Players from throughout the lower North Island gathered on the south bank of the Ōtaki River on Sunday (August 2) for the district’s first public disc golf pop-up course.

The temporary nine-hole course, organised by Wellington Disc Golf Club member Canon Larsen, is designed to gauge local interest in the fast-growing sport and, ultimately, pave the way for a permanent course in the town.

While disc golf has been steadily gaining popularity in New Zealand, Ōtaki has never had a public course. Canon believes the riverside reserve offers an ideal location for introducing the sport to local families, visitors and experienced players alike.

“This is really about getting people out to have some fun and test the course,” he says. “If people enjoy it, the long-term goal is definitely to create a permanent course.”

Disc golf follows much the same format as traditional golf, except players throw specially designed discs instead of hitting balls with clubs. Each throw counts as a stroke, with the aim of completing each “hole” in as few throws as possible before the disc lands in a metal basket.

The temporary layout features a mix of par-three and par-four holes, along with a challenging par-five stretching more than 200 metres. Experienced players can throw more than 100 metres in a single shot, while beginners can simply enjoy learning the game at their own pace.

Canon says one of disc golf’s biggest attractions is its accessibility.

“It’s one of the easiest sports to get into. Once a course is there, anyone can come along and



Canon Larsen by the Ōtaki River with discs and a basket used in disc golf. Photo Ōtaki Today

play. You don’t need expensive equipment, membership fees or tee times – just a few discs and you’re away.”

The course was established with the approval of Greater Wellington Regional Council after Canon approached staff with the idea only a few weeks ago.

“It’s actually been a really quick turnaround,” he said. “The support has been fantastic.”

The event attracted players from Wellington, Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt and Manawātū, many keen to experience a new course and support efforts to establish the sport on the Kāpiti Coast.

Unlike the established course at El Rancho,

which is on private property and has limited public access, a permanent course on public land would allow anyone to play whenever they wished.

Canon hopes Sunday’s event is only the beginning. His plans include additional pop-up courses, introducing disc golf to local schools and seeking sponsorship from businesses to help fund permanent baskets.

With professional tours established overseas and participation growing in New Zealand, Canon believes disc golf has a bright future.

“I’d love to see Ōtaki become another place where people can come down, throw a disc and enjoy the outdoors,” he says.

Houses for Rangioru

from front page

Each will feature double glazing, insulation and heat pumps, with durable brick and Colorsteel exteriors selected for longevity and low maintenance.

Shared facilities will include landscaped open spaces, community garden planters, a playground, basketball court, seating areas, bicycle and bin storage, and a planned pedestrian link north towards Ngā Purapura.

Kāpiti Housing Solutions Trust says the project responds to increasing pressure on housing throughout the Kāpiti Coast.

“Like much of the country, Ōtaki and the wider Kapiti region face real pressure on housing,” the trust said in a flyer to neighbours.

“There is a clear and growing need for homes that are affordable, warm, healthy and secure, and that give people a stable place to live over the long term.”

Project management company Egmont Dixon has been appointed to oversee delivery and coordinate the wider project team, while construction company Homestead will undertake the design and build of the development.

The first homes are expected to be completed and occupied progressively during 2027.

The 46 homes will be in addition to the 137 residential units already under construction at 33 Main Highway, Ōtaki, and about 500 units planned at the Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club.

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Local rangatahi don hi-vis

By Ian Carson

Twenty-three young wāhine from Ōtaki and Horowhenua area colleges got a rare opportunity recently to see what it was like to work on the Ōtaki to North of Levin expressway.

The event, hosted by the alliances constructing the road, is part of this year's Connexis Girls with Hi-Vis programme. The nationwide initiative gives young wāhine hands on exposure to careers in infrastructure, helping them see the many diverse pathways available across roading and construction projects.

The year 11-13 students – from Ōtaki College, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Rito, Horowhenua and Waiopēhu colleges – donned hard hats, reflective vests and steel-cap boots, with those visiting the southern alliance looking around the work site at South Manakau Road. They talked to some of the construction team and tried their hand operating small diggers, did some traffic management exercises and sat in on typical health, safety and environmental sessions.

Project director Glen Prince says Girls with Hi-Vis is an important opportunity to show rangatahi that careers in infrastructure and roading are achievable and rewarding.

“As a project working in this rohe, we're committed to creating meaningful



Okamanea Houia of Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Rito tries her hand on a digger, watched by a drone and Downer Construction leading hand Hana Puketapu-Deyes.
Photo Ōtaki Today

opportunities for local rangatahi and hope to have inspired the next generation of people who may one day help plan, build, operate and care for the Aotearoa transport network.”

Connexis, an infrastructure industries training provider, organises for female secondary students from around the country to visit local employers to find out more about

the career opportunities in industries such as civil construction, electricity supply, telecommunications and water treatment.

Connexis executive director Kaarin Gaukrodger says that in 2015 only 8 percent of trainees in trade and technical roles were female – today it's 16 percent.

“Women still represent a largely

untapped employment market for a lot of our infrastructure industries, many of which are facing skills shortages,” she says. “One of the most effective ways of changing that is simply awareness.

She says many of the students attending a Hi-Vis event see new opportunities, and they make key connections with local employers.

Twenty in for Dollars promotion

The Ōtaki Te Horo Business Association says 20 business have already registered for the Ōtaki Dollars promotion, but more are welcome.

“We'd like to see all businesses registering throughout Ōtaki and Te Horo,” says ŌTHBA secretary Tracey Savage. “Trades, businesses without shop fronts, online only, work from home – any business can register.”

The promotion will run from October 1. It offers \$5000 to a lucky winner to spend back in Ōtaki and Te Horo. Customers enter by collecting three receipts of \$20 or more, loading them up and going into the grand prize draw.

Spot prizes will also be drawn during October.

“The more businesses that register, the more reasons there are for folks to visit town and spend some money during October,” Tracey says.

■ *It's free for businesses to register – to to othba.co.nz/otaki-dollars-registration or email info@othba.com for a registration form.*

THE PART WE PLAY IN TODAY’S WORLD

Ōtaki residents are invited to a conversation about the world of today and what role we play in it to make it a better – or worse – place.

This is a non-political forum where comments and ideas are welcome.

Should we be asking ourselves:

- *What can we do?*
- *How can we do it?*
- *Why should we do it?*
- *Can we do better?*

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Ōtaki racing ‘keen to collaborate’

By Ian Carson

Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club says it’s keen to collaborate with other lower North Island tracks slated for closure.

There are plans for Levin and Foxton race tracks – as well as the iconic Trentham race course in Upper Hutt – to close and be sold under an infrastructure plan outlined recently by New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) and Harness Racing New Zealand (HRNZ). Both Levin and Foxton are no longer used for racing, but trainers utilise them for training and “jump-outs” – an educational device for younger horses, or for conditioning.

With the harness racing Manawātū track also to close under the plan, Ōtaki would be the only venue on the North Island west coast up to Awapuni in Palmerston North.

Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club manager Ben Jamison says he’s pleased his club isn’t under the axe, but he feels for the other racing clubs.

“We’re here with open arms to anyone who feels we can help somehow. It might be to help fight the recommendations or working collaboratively to help retain autonomy to a certain degree.”

If Trentham did close, Ben would be keen to attract some of its feature races to Ōtaki, but believes realistically that they will go to another metropolitan track, such as Awapuni. That might be the new venue for the Wellington Cup, for example.



Photo Ōtaki Today

Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club general manager Ben Jamison.

Ben says he expects Ōtaki and the other remaining clubs to receive more investment to allow them to operate effectively, but he has no idea when that might happen, or how much it might be.

He says what still concerns him is that the initial recommendations from the consultants who drafted Project Stamina were for Ōtaki to be shut down.

“We’re grateful for NZTR for immediately firing back on that – obviously it would have been a political nightmare [for them] in terms of our heritage.”

The plan suggests closure of seven racing tracks: Trentham, Rotorua, Avondale, Manawātū, Wyndham, Hāwera, Ōamaru, and Gore. “Non-racing” tracks include Levin, Foxton, Kumeū, Spotswood Farm, Waikouaiti, Balfour, Thames, Te Awamutu, Ōpaki, Wairoa, and Stratford.

The racing bodies will now consider whether to implement all or part of the plan.



The toilets at Chrystalls Bend, closed until further notice. Photo Ōtaki Today

Raid closes public toilets

By Ian Carson

The public toilets at Chrystalls Bend have been targeted by thieves again, and this time the facility might not reopen.

On July 20, offenders broke in and stole the solar batteries and inverters needed to power the toilets. Without these, the toilets will not flush, so Kāpiti Coast District Council says they are now closed until further notice.

The toilets were targeted only a year later – in similar circumstances – when thieves smashed their way in and stole the operating gear. Replacing it and repairing the damage cost ratepayers more than \$48,000. Now the replaced gear has been stolen.

The council is facing a similar bill, and is considering whether it’s viable to keep replacing equipment that continues to be targeted by thieves.

The toilets are well used by walkers and cyclists who enjoy the natural environment along the northern bank of the Ōtaki River. Lobbying by the Friends of the Ōtaki River and others resulted in their installation at a cost of \$134,250 in 2024, paid for by the government’s Tourism Infrastructure Fund.

Vandalism of Kāpiti community halls, sports changing rooms, and public toilets is costing ratepayers up to \$160,000 every year, with the council spending about \$10,000 a month repairing damage – occasionally facing big one-off repair bills such as for the Chrystalls Bend toilets, of about \$40,000.

The council says public toilets alone were targeted 27 times during the 2025/26 financial year, with some facilities hit more than once. Toilet pans have been smashed, doors kicked in, graffiti scrawled on walls, pipes deliberately blocked. While repairs are made, facilities are closed for days or even weeks.

Contact me at
my Kāpiti office

020 438 8462
kapiti@parliament.govt.nz
6 Te Roto Dr, Paraparaumu

Tim Costley
MP for Ōtaki



John Bertrand Collectables Buying in Otaki & Kapiti Coast 20 and 21 August

Once again, the gold and collectables buyers from Wellington company John Bertrand Collectables are visiting Otaki and Kapiti Coast on 20th and 21st August. Mr Tony Grant from the company says, "If you are downsizing or wanting to dispose of things because they no longer serve any purpose to you or your family bring them in". "20th and 21st August will be a great opportunity to have any items you want to sell assessed by our buyers" said Mr Grant. Particularly wanted are Gold and Silver (in any of its forms) and Collectables such as Coins, Banknotes, War Medals, Old Wind-up Watches and other interesting Small Collectables.

"We are keen buyers, especially of the items in the list below" said Mr Grant. "Nothing is too small for our consideration. We are just as happy buying 1 item as we are buying 1,000 items" he said. The buyers will be in Otaki and Kapiti Coast on 20th and 21st August. (see details below). As Tony Grant points out "If you are in doubt about any items you may wish to sell, bring them along for an instant appraisal."



**Mr Anthony (Tony)
W. Grant**

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

Gold & Silver At Very High Prices

Over the last couple of years, we have seen a sharp increase in the price of precious metals. The gold price in New Zealand is still at historically high levels. So, gather up all your unwanted items and make an appointment to see the buyers. Tony Grant says "We can buy gold items in all forms, including Jewellery (Rings, Chains, Brooches etc.), Coins (Sovereigns and the like), Alluvial (River Gold), virtually anything, even Gold Teeth! We also need all Sterling Silver including Cups, Tea Services, Cutlery and Old Coins" he said.



Interesting Small Collectables Wanted

The buyers from John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd, visiting Otaki and Kapiti Coast on 20th and 21st August, are happy to look at any interesting items, for example vintage pocket and wristwatches such as Rolex, Men's Omega, Breitling and gold watches etc. Also wanted, pre 1950's picture postcards, Maori and Pacific artefacts, old fountain pens and other small antique or historical items.

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

Some Big Dollars in Early Banknotes

Early New Zealand Banknotes dated before 1932 are currently fetching big money! This is according to Mr Tony Grant, author of the *John Bertrand New Zealand Coin & Banknote Catalogue*. Mr Grant is in Otaki and Kapiti Coast on 20th and 21st August on a buying trip for John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd and would be very keen to see any of these issues. "We will pay at least \$300 for any undamaged Ten Shilling or

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

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

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

Collectors Need War Medals

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

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

Old Coins Can Toss Up a Rarity

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

JOHN BERTRAND (COLLECTABLES) ARE BUYING NOW!!

OLD GOLD

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



COINS

- All Gold & Silver Coins
- Gold Sovereigns
- Gold Half Sovereigns
- NZ Silver Coins 1946 & Before
- Also wanted NZ & World Coins after 1946
- Australian Silver Coins to 1963
- English Silver Coins to 1946
- NZ 1935 "Waitangi Crown"
- USA Coins up to 1964
- Old Collections & Accumulations of World Coins
- Modern Collector's Coins & Sets
- NZ Reserve Bank Sets



No Pennies or Halfpennies Please

BANKNOTES

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



GOLD & SILVER

- Racing Cups
- A&P Show Cups
- Sports Cups
- Presentation Keys & Trowels
- Show Pieces
- Sterling Silver Tea Sets
- Sterling Silver Cutlery
- Scrap Gold & Silver

No EPNS or Silver Plated items Please

WRIST & POCKET WATCHES

- Gold & Silver Pocket Watches
- Any Rolex Watches
- Omega Gents Watches
- Any Breitling, Jaeger Le Coultre, Vacheron & Constantin, Patek Philippe, or IWC Watches
- Moon Phase Watches
- Chiming or Alarm Watches (Pocket or Wrist)
- Military Watches
- Divers Watches
- All other pre 1950s wind up watches (parts value only)

No Quartz or Battery Operated Watches Please

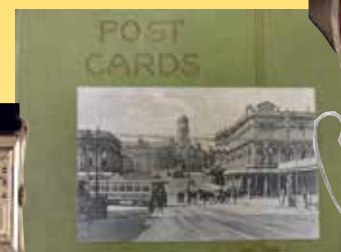


TOKENS

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

COLLECTABLES

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



No item too small for
our consideration

WAR MEDALS ETC

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

HISTORICAL MEDALS

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



**NO
APPOINTMENT
NECESSARY**

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

JOHN BERTRAND (COLLECTABLES) LTD OUR BUYERS ARE IN YOUR AREA 20TH AND 21ST AUGUST

OTAKI	Fri 21 Aug	Otaki Baptist Church Hall, 2 Te Manuao Road	2.30 pm to 4 pm
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ALSO BUYING IN

LEVIN	Thurs 20 Aug	Uniting Church, Andrew Room, 87 Oxford Street	12.30 pm to 2.30 pm
RAUMATI BEACH	Thurs 20 Aug	Kapiti Uniting Parish Church, Community Hall, 10 Weka Road	3.30 pm to 4.30 pm
PARAPARAUMU BEACH	Fri 21 Aug	Ocean Road Community Centre, 45 Ocean Road	9 am to 11 am
WAIKANAE	Fri 21 Aug	Senior Citizens Community Centre, 28 Utauta Street	12 noon to 1.30 pm

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Local demand for palliative care grows

More people in the Ōtaki area are turning to Arohanui Hospice for support as demand for specialist palliative care continues to grow, with referrals from the Ōtaki–Kāpiti area almost doubling over the past year.

Arohanui Hospice chief executive Clare Randall says many people are unaware that hospice care is available locally, free of charge, and often begins well before the final stages of life.

“Hospice care is not confined to a building or a person’s final days,” Clare says. “Our team walks alongside patients and whānau, helping them live as well as possible while remaining connected to their own homes and community.”

Over the past 12 months, Arohanui Hospice has cared for 104 patients in the Ōtaki area and supported more than 450 family and whānau members.

While many residents recognise the Arohanui Hospice Shop on Ōtaki’s Main Street, the organisation says much of its work takes place behind the scenes, with specialist nurses and support staff travelling throughout the district to care for patients in their own homes.

The hospice’s southern service boundary extends to Peka Peka Beach, with about 72 percent of patient care delivered at home. During the past year, community nurses made 2043 home visits in the wider Ōtaki area – the equivalent of visiting a local household every four hours.

Those visits involved about 314 hours of driving, while patients and families also received 176 hours of social work, counselling and spiritual care.

People can be referred to the hospice at any stage of a life-limiting illness, not just in their final days. The service works alongside GPs, hospitals and other health providers, helping patients manage symptoms while providing emotional and practical support for both patients and their families.

Meeting the growing demand comes at a significant cost. It takes about \$1.2 million every year to provide hospice



Arohanui Hospice Shop on Main Street raises funds for palliative care. Photo Ōtaki Today

services across the Ōtaki community. About half of that funding comes from the government, with the balance relying on hospice shops, donations, fundraising and volunteers.

Arohanui Hospice Foundation director Michelle Connor says every donation and purchase made through the Ōtaki hospice shop directly benefits local families.

“When people shop, donate goods, volunteer or make a financial contribution, they are helping ensure care reaches patients and whānau in their own community,” she says. “Funds raised here stay in the region, supporting services for local people when they need them most.”

The Arohanui Hospice Shop, at 11–13 Main Street, Ōtaki, accepts quality pre-loved goods and relies on volunteers to help raise the funds needed to provide specialist palliative care throughout the district.

BRIEFS

Housing focus of candidates meeting

Ōtaki Public Housing Group is hosting a candidates meeting 5.30-7.30pm on August 11 at the Gertrude Atmore Supper Room (next to the library) to discuss housing. A panel will include Kāpiti electorate candidates from National, Labour, Greens and Opportunity, chaired by leading housing researcher Professor Aeron Davis. There will be Q&A and refreshments.

Today’s issues to be discussed

A meeting to discuss the part we all play in a fractured and divisive world will be held at the Ōtaki RSA from 2pm Sunday, August 16. Organiser Phil Malpas says the meeting is “definitely not political”, and he’s keen to hear what participants think about the many issues facing us all today.

School, league players gets funding

Ōtaki School has received \$27,028.76 for a shade sail in the latest funding round of the New Zealand Community Trust. Raukawa ki Runga has also received a \$9687 grant, which allowed them to compete at the Aotearoa Māori Rugby League Tournament at Kerikeri in July.

Major events get funding

Six major events – including the Ōtaki International Kite Festival and Māoriland Film Festival, have secured support through Kāpiti Coast District Council’s Major Events Fund for 2026/27. Other funded events include the Kāpiti Food Fair, Kāpiti Women’s Triathlon, and NZ PGA Championship. The Mostly Music Festival of X receives strategic growth funding as a new major event. This year, \$180,000 was available to help fund events.

Twenty-three call-outs for brigade

There were 23 call-outs for the Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade in July. Four were for property fires, four for medical emergencies, and four were to help the Levin brigade. There were three each for vehicle crashes and to attend private fire alarms. The brigade attended two rubbish, grass or scrub fires, and there were two “good intent” calls. One call was a “special service”. In June, there were 22 call-outs – six of them for rubbish, grass or scrub fires, and six for private fire alarms. There were two each for: property fires, medical emergencies; “special service”; and to assist the Levin and Waikanae brigades. One call was for a vehicle crash, and one “good intent”.

HELP US MAKE OUR LOCAL ROADS SAFER

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

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

This includes measures like:

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

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

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



Have your say by Tuesday 15 September

Complete the submission form online

[Haveyoursay.govt.nz/SpeedManagementPlan](https://haveyoursay.govt.nz/SpeedManagementPlan)

HAVE YOUR SAY

Kāpiti Coast DISTRICT COUNCIL

Me Huri Whakamuri, Ke Tūro Whakamua

HUATAU/Opinion

HE TIROHANGA HOU: HENITI BUICK

Feedback provides direction when making difficult decisions

As we move through winter, I've found myself reflecting on how much of leadership comes down to listening.

This month, council released the results of our local government reform survey. While the outcome isn't binding and there are still many conversations ahead, it was encouraging to see our community provide a clear direction. The preferred option from respondents was for Kāpiti to become a unitary authority, followed by joining with Horowhenua, and then joining with Wellington. Whatever your personal view, having community feedback gives elected members an important foundation as we continue these discussions. It means we're making decisions informed by the people we represent, rather than assumptions.

We've also recently closed our Long Term Plan pre-engagement survey. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share your views, particularly with the late surge in responses before it closed. Whether the feedback confirms we're on the right track or tells us we've missed the mark, it all matters. Understanding what our district values most helps us shape priorities, services, and investment for the years ahead.

Matariki also provided a welcome opportunity to pause. The many local events were a reminder that amidst busy schedules and constant change, spending time with whānau, friends, and community is something we shouldn't take for granted.



Outside of council, I've been reminded that these are challenging times across many sectors. At Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki we've recently had to make some difficult decisions,

including restructuring parts of our organisation as funding priorities continue to shift across the health system. Like many organisations, we've had to focus our limited resources where they can have the greatest impact.

In many ways, local government faces similar challenges. Resources are finite, costs continue to rise, and expectations are understandably high. We simply can't do everything, so it's

increasingly important that we invest in the things our community tells us matter most. That doesn't always make decisions easy, but it does make listening even more important.

On a personal note, I've appreciated the opportunity to continue learning this month through the Amorangi Māori Governance Summit, the LGNZ Young Elected Members Conference, and, most importantly, through everyday conversations with people across Ōtaki. Every kōrero offers another perspective, and those perspectives make us better leaders.

As always, thank you for taking the time to share your ideas, concerns, and aspirations for our community. They genuinely help shape the decisions we make together.

■ Heniti is the Ōtaki Ward councillor

CAM'S CORNER: CAM BUTLER

Return of the revocation jinx

Revocation done?

OK, I jinxed it by saying that revocation would be done by the time of the last column, sorry! There is still some planting to go and after some complaints about leaking liquids staining the footpaths it has been agreed to move two rubbish bins. The placement of additional bins has been finalised after a walk around the area with Leon from the business association, myself and a KCDC staff member.

Mill Road

This road continues to be a bugbear and rightly so with the very uneven surface and potholes continuing to appear. In one morning I reported seven places with potholes along Mill Road. The resurfacing is still programmed for the summer period and I am fighting to get it prioritised and done as soon as possible.

Speed management

A number of improvements have been approved for consultation for implementation. These range from technicalities to true speed calming measures. A technicality example is that the urban area where new roads are automatically 50km/h does not actually cover all of Ōtaki and are being 100km/h roads by default. The speed management change extends the urban area to cover all future developments.

True speed calming measures include speed bumps along and islands at each end of Domain Road. I'm sure there will be some who decry this, however complaints and speed data have shown that these measures are necessary.

Work on Waerenga Road has seen the school pedestrian crossings completed and the college crossing well under way. Some people have noted how long these are taking, but it must be noted that raised crossings



include kerb changes, safety improvements and stormwater drain work so are not overnight operations.

Ōtaki Pool stage II redevelopment

With the plan hanging in the pool, most users will have seen the plans for the final changes to the Haruātai pool. This includes new changing rooms, reception, birthday party room etc at the eastern end near the tennis club, and a massive upgrade to the plant room with switching away from gas to electrical heating.

Big upgrades to the spa and sauna will make those who like to cook themselves happy, plus a manu pool is a possibility and one on which the council is yet to decide.

I have been involved in this plan for a couple of years as both a community board member and as a pool user with canoe polo. Through feedback, plans for shortening the main pool were shelved even up until eight weeks ago. I was then appalled to see at the last minute the split pool back in the plan.

I am torn here – the warmer learn-to-swim pool is a great asset, versus the detrimental effect on the canoe polo players. Hmmm.

- Like Ōtaki Community Board on Facebook
- Next Ōtaki Community Board meeting is 7pm on Tuesday, September 22.

■ Cam is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board

EYE ON WAIKANAĒ: MICHAEL MOORE

Keeping Kāpiti's voice local

One of the biggest changes proposed for local government in decades is now taking shape, with the government signalling significant reform that could reshape how councils operate across New Zealand.

While the final outcome remains uncertain, one thing is already very clear: Kāpiti wants its own voice.

Kāpiti Coast District Council recently voted unanimously to seek a stand-alone Kāpiti Unitary Authority, rather than becoming part of a larger "mega region" stretching across Wellington, Porirua and the Hutt Valley. That unanimous decision reflects what many residents told the council during its recent consultation.

More than 2700 people took part in the community survey. Of those, 43 percent preferred a single Kāpiti authority rather than merging with neighbouring councils.

Another 36.2 percent said that, if change was unavoidable, they would rather look north towards Horowhenua than south into a wider Wellington structure.

Only 18.1 percent favoured joining a larger Wellington regional group, while just 2.7 percent believed central government should simply make the decision for us.

The message from our community was consistent.

People value local representation and want decisions to remain close to the people they affect. Residents want councillors who understand Kāpiti's unique character, challenges and opportunities, rather than becoming one voice among many in a much larger organisation.

There is also a practical concern. Many residents believe that rates collected in Kāpiti should continue to be invested here, maintaining our roads, parks, libraries, community facilities and essential infrastructure. Much of that infrastructure is already managed locally, and there is understandable concern that local priorities could

be overshadowed if decisions were made from further afield.

Of course, requesting a stand-alone Kāpiti Unitary Authority is only the beginning. Including that proposal in the Wellington region's submission does not guarantee

it will be accepted by neighbouring councils or ultimately approved by central government. The process remains complex and, as Mayor Janet Holborow has observed, it is "fraught".

As the mayor has said, the council's immediate priority is ensuring that Kāpiti's local voice and the community's preferences are clearly understood by other mayors across the Wellington region.

Whatever the government ultimately decides, I believe one principle should remain at the heart of these reforms: the people of Kāpiti deserve a strong local voice.

Decisions affecting our district are best made by those who live here, understand our communities and are directly accountable to the people they serve.

- The next meeting of the Waikanae Community Board is at 6.30pm on Tuesday August 25, at Waikanae Community Centre, 28 Utauta St.

■ Michael is a member of the Waikanae Community Board



THE ELECTORATE: TIM COSTLEY

Flexible parental leave and help with the cost of living

Every parent in Ōtaki knows that balancing the joy of a newborn with the cost of living is no small feat. That is why National is backing local families with more flexibility, longer leave, and some extra help to pay the bills.

If you've ever tried to juggle a newborn baby, a toddler running around the lounge, spending time at home with your new family but also still needing to pay the bills, then you'll know that raising young kids is both the best and the busiest job in the world.

Here in Ōtaki, I talk to young parents every week who are trying to balance their careers

with that precious time at home. They tell me that every bit of help matters, and that's why National is backing our local families.

If re-elected, National will extend paid parental leave out to 30 weeks by 2029. It's not just about more time at home; it's about more flexibility. Right now, rules can make it tricky for both mums and dads to be home together. Under our plan, parents will have the option to take their paid leave at the same time.

So instead of one parent taking 30 weeks, both parents could share that time together for



up to 15 weeks in those crucial early months.

We are also making sure parents aren't penalised when they return to work. We are protecting changes so working mums and dads don't see their holiday pay drop just because they took time out to care

for their baby. We will also continue paying into KiwiSaver for parents on paid leave, keeping those retirement savings growing.

As our children grow, so too the challenges change. That is where FamilyBoost comes in. Childcare can be a big barrier in helping mums and dad return to work, but our Familyboost

puts real money back into the pockets of hardworking families by helping cover those early childhood education costs.

That is available to all Ōtaki families today, and gives you a refund on ECE costs. It's targeted relief that rewards work and helps you get ahead while your children are young.

Whether it's extra weeks at home with a newborn, flexible leave options, or easing the cost of childcare through FamilyBoost, National is backing our skilled people and local families.

It's all part of our plan to fix the basics for young families, and build a stronger future right here in Ōtaki.

■ Tim is the Ōtaki electorate MP

A trap for those of us heading towards our final years is rose-tinted glasses for the past.

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

Regarding Bruce Kohn's political column (*Will Labour see red with Greens*, July 2026 *Ōtaki Today*), I can only hope you put forward the juxtaposition of this right-wing neocon dribble. Scare mongering should be no part of this country's political landscape. But here we are. . . . How about a balanced overview? There is a very good reason why New Zealand is seen as a soft market to exploit by corporations and investors. Once you allow political donations and lobbyist groups to walk freely down the halls of government you no longer have a democracy.

**SPRING INTO
SUSTAINABLE ACTION**
**SEP + OCT
2026**



SUSTAINABLE

SPRING

He Kōanga Toitū

This spring, help make Kāpiti a more connected, resilient, and sustainable place!

During September and October, join us for a wide range of fun, interactive workshops and events. Save on household energy costs, connect with others, and get involved with local sustainability initiatives – there is something for everyone.

Kia whakanuia, kia whanake hoki ngā hapori tūhono, tupu anō, toitū ki Kāpiti



Full programme coming soon

[kapiticoast.govt.nz/
SustainableSpring](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz/SustainableSpring)





MAHI MĀRA/Gardening



Pluck the flowers from young plants.



The strawberry root crown (circled). Photos: Edible Backyard NZ



The secret to bountiful strawberries

There are a gazillion different strawberry fertilisers on the shelves at garden centres, and guess what – you don’t need a single one of them!

The secret to bountiful strawberry crops doesn’t come in a bag – it comes from a free draining, sunny spot, plus compost, plus a diverse living mulch, plus your eyes regularly on the job. Nothing too hard, (or surprising) there. But the devil is in the detail.

Drainage: Strawberries won’t thrive in poorly drained, or compact soil. If this is your lot, elevate plants 100-150mm in raised rows of compost, or a raised bed. The root hairs that do all the heavy lifting in the nutrient-conversion department are oh so fine, and must be in soil that drains.

Moisture: Those same fine root hairs mustn’t dry out either. Retain moisture with compost and mulch, and check soil moisture regularly.

Airflow: Airflow is important for all-round best health, and also for pollination – that’s the transfer of pollen that turns flowers to fruit. It’s something to look out for because strawberries being low-growing are vulnerable to missing out on the breeze.

Full sun: Plant your strawbs where they will bathe in full sun from late winter onwards. Sun stimulates bud burst, photosynthesis is the best fert, and sun-kissed berries are the



KATH IRVINE

sweetest.
Soil fungi: The nutrients that strawberries need to grow fat and sassy come naturally via soil fungi that connect roots to the vast below-ground fungal network. Belonging to this network extends their nutrient hunting ground a thousand-fold.
• Soil fungi flourish with healthy soil, home-made compost, vermicastings, spray-free mulch, diverse living mulches, trees.
• Soil fungi suffer with non-organic pea straw, artificial fertilisers, fungicides, herbicides and pesticides, excessive nitrogen, low plant diversity, poor soil.

Planting how-tos

Plant strawberries autumn through winter so the roots are established before flowering starts in spring.
Home-made compost mixed with vermicastings, or a small amount of well-rotten manure, is the perfect base to plant into. Space plants about 20cm apart – and here’s a game changing bit of info – make sure the root crown (the bit just above the roots), is level with or just proud of the soil. The root crown is where new growth springs from, and it’s important not to bury it.

Mulch around each plant with ramial chip, or a mix of whatever dry browns you have at hand. Then sow or plant a mixed living mulch of low growing scramblers like crimson clover, phacelia, vetch, leafy greens, saladings, spring onions, or calendula, between rows. Or, plant strawberries on the sunny side of flower gardens or veggie beds – anywhere plant diversity reigns.

Until plants have a rosette of 10 healthy leaves, pluck flowers off to focus energy on growing roots and foliage to create a strong base that can support good cropping.

Varieties

Short-day strawberries give a concentrated burst of berries from mid spring to mid-summer. My favs are Camarosa, Ventana or Pajaro.

Day-neutral strawberries provide a little and often harvest summer through autumn. My favs are Monterey and Moxie.

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



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The good science behind fluoridation

Dental caries (tooth decay) is a serious infectious disease and a major public-health burden, carrying substantial personal, social, and economic costs.

It causes school and workplace absenteeism, reduces productivity, disrupts sleep, and – as paediatric nutrition research shows – contributes to poor nutrition in children. It is the most prevalent chronic health condition among New Zealand children, with more than 40 percent of children having dental caries by the age of 5.

Oral health is closely linked to overall health. Chronic oral infection drives low-grade systemic inflammation, disrupts immune regulation, and is associated with increased cardiovascular risk. In New Zealand, treating dental disease costs more than \$1 billion a year.

More than 70 years of international and New Zealand research shows the clear benefits of community water fluoridation: it substantially reduces tooth decay, leading to fewer fillings, fewer extractions, and fewer abscesses. And these benefits persist even in populations where fluoride toothpaste is widely used.

Consistent with earlier research, a 2026 national study of more than 600,000 children – the largest evaluation of fluoridation effectiveness ever

conducted in New Zealand – found that children living in non-fluoridated areas had significantly higher rates of early childhood caries.

Because fluoride protects teeth regardless of income, education, or access to dental care, community water fluoridation is an equity-enhancing intervention. It disproportionately benefits low-income families, people with limited dental access, and Māori and Pasifika communities. Public health agencies – along with the overwhelming majority of dental and medical experts – recommend water fluoridation. It is one of the most cost-effective public health measures ever evaluated.

Currently, only about half of New Zealanders have access to fluoridated drinking water. On the Kāpiti Coast, fluoride is added to the Waikanae, Paraparaumu, and Raumati supplies at the regulatory level of 0.7 mg/L, but not to the Ōtaki or Paekākāriki supplies. Naturally occurring fluoride in Ōtaki's water – about 0.05 mg/L – is far below the concentration needed to provide meaningful protection against tooth decay.

Based on extensive scientific evidence, the Ministry of Health is expanding access to fluoridated drinking water under the Health (Fluoridation of Drinking Water) Amendment Act 2021. The Act gives the Director-General of Health the authority to direct local councils to add fluoride to their water supplies. So far, directions have been issued to 14 local authorities – including for Levin, but not for Ōtaki.

Health regulators, including the Ministry of Health, describe community water fluoridation as “safe and effective”. In public-health terms, effective means fluoridation consistently reduces tooth decay by a clinically meaningful margin across well

designed studies and diverse populations, and that those benefits hold up in a risk-benefit analysis.

Safe means the risks are small, well understood, and acceptable compared with the benefits. The adverse effects seen at New Zealand's fluoridation levels are generally mild and cosmetic, primarily very mild dental fluorosis. In New Zealand, mild fluorosis rates are similar in fluoridated and non-fluoridated communities, and the main preventable contributor to fluorosis in children is swallowing fluoridated toothpaste. Serious harms are not supported by high-quality evidence at the fluoride concentrations used in drinking water. Safety is maintained through ongoing monitoring, updated guidelines, and regular review of new research.

A concern raised by opponents of fluoridation is that fluoride is a neurodevelopmental toxin that can lower IQ in children. The studies most often cited for this claim come from parts of the world with naturally very high fluoride levels in groundwater – far above anything used in regulated fluoridation. Toxicology is clear that “the dose makes the poison”: many common substances become harmful at excessive concentrations, including iron, vitamin D, and even water.

The scientific question is whether fluoride is harmful at the regulated level used in New Zealand (0.7 mg/L). Across high-quality studies, there is no credible evidence of neurotoxicity at this concentration. Fluoridation remains supported by the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization, along with other major international public health agencies, as a safe and effective measure to reduce tooth decay.

Many of the claims linking high-fluoride drinking water to lower IQ also overlook a crucial complication: in the regions where these studies

were done the groundwater often contains very high levels of arsenic – far above any regulated drinking-water standard. Arsenic is a well established neurotoxin, so when both exposures occur together it becomes difficult to isolate fluoride as the cause. That's why these findings don't translate to New Zealand, where large, well controlled studies show no impact of fluoridation on children's cognitive development.

Opposition to fluoridation is often shaped less by the science and more by broader beliefs about autonomy, government authority, and institutional trust. For some, fluoridation becomes a symbolic issue – a stand-in for deeper views about personal freedom and the role of public health agencies.

Public health agencies evaluate fluoridation by drawing on large-scale, population-level evidence showing substantial reductions in tooth decay and minimal risk at regulated concentrations. Opponents typically rely on selectively chosen individual studies, high-dose toxicity research, or a precautionary framing that treats any chemical exposure as inherently suspect. The disagreement is not merely about data; it reflects contrasting approaches to evidence, differing perceptions of risk, and divergent views on how far government should intervene in public health.

Anti-fluoride websites can shift people's views remarkably quickly, often by presenting information in ways that appear scientific but are anything but. In my next article, I will examine how these sites frame their arguments – and the specific ways they distort the science around water fluoridation.

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



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TE PUNA ORANGA O ŌTAKI

Plan for future with EPAs

Planning for the unexpected is a cornerstone of prudent personal risk management.

Under the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988 (PPPR Act), an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) allows a person (the donor) to appoint a trusted individual to manage their affairs should they lose mental capacity.

New Zealand law separates EPAs into two categories, each with specific structural rules:

- **Property EPA:** Can either take effect immediately while the donor is capable, or only upon incapacity (as specified by the donor). Can be an individual or a trustee corporation, and multiple attorneys can be appointed.
- **Personal Care & Welfare EPA:** Strictly takes effect only if the donor becomes mentally incapable. Limited to exactly one individual – trustee corporation and multiple attorneys are not permitted.

Failing to execute an EPA leaves a significant legal vacuum. If a person loses capacity without one, the Family Court must intervene to appoint a welfare guardian or a property manager to manage their personal and financial affairs. This process is often time-consuming and costly, potentially incurring big fees deducted from the donor's assets.

Critically, the court may appoint someone the donor would not have chosen to manage their life.

New Zealand law fiercely protects individual autonomy. Under the PPPR Act, every person is presumed competent to manage their own affairs until the contrary is proven. Legal incapacity is reached only when a person lacks the capacity to understand the nature of decisions; foresee the consequences of those decisions; or communicate them.

To trigger the powers of a Personal Care & Welfare EPA or an unactivated Property EPA for significant matters, a medical threshold must be met. An attorney must not act unless a relevant health practitioner has certified, or the court has determined, that the donor is mentally incapable.

To protect vulnerable donors, EPAs must be drafted on a prescribed form and witnessed by a lawyer, a qualified legal executive, or an authorised officer of a trustee corporation. This witness must also be independent of the appointed attorney(s), and must comprehensively explain the effects, implications, and monitoring options of the EPA to the donor before signing.

An attorney must always operate under strict fiduciary boundaries. Their paramount consideration must be the promotion and protection of the donor's best interests. Attorneys are legally bound to encourage the donor to develop and exercise whatever capacity they retain to understand and communicate decisions. Furthermore, the attorney must consult the donor and any other appointed attorneys as far as practicable. An attorney cannot use the donor's property to benefit themselves unless the EPA explicitly authorises it.

To ensure your affairs are properly managed if you lose capacity, and to protect your family from costly court interventions, it pays to contact a qualified lawyer who can help put in place appropriate EPAs.

■ *Corinna is a solicitor at Wakefields Lawyers – 04 9780 3600 or info@wakefieldslaw.com*

Traps in rental bond refund process

Almost 30 percent (per the 2023 census) of our wider Ōtaki hapori rent their whare.

Recent changes to how rental bonds are returned might affect people who rely on paper forms, or don't have access to or feel comfortable using the internet.

The bond you pay when signing a rental agreement covered by the Residential Tenancies Act is a sum of money (equal to up to four weeks rent) paid by the tenant to the landlord as security for any damage done by the tenant or failure to pay rent (and there can be an additional amount equal to two weeks rent for a pet bond).

When you pay the bond to your landlord, they should give you a receipt confirming your payment. You should also receive confirmation from Tenancy Services – by email or letter (depending on your preference) – that your bond has been lodged with them. Your landlord has 23 business days to do this. This confirmation will state your bond number and your tenant number. You need these to access your bond refund at the end of your tenancy. Keep your landlord receipt and

your notice from Tenancy Services somewhere you can find them easily. If you receive paper versions, take photos of them on your phone and make an album so you have backups you can find. You don't need to tell your landlord your tenant number.

At the end of your tenancy, you should agree with your landlord on the amount of your bond refund. You are entitled to get your full bond refunded if you have taken reasonable care of the property, there is no damage other than normal wear and tear and your rent is paid in full. Your tenancy agreement might say you have to pay for professional cleaning or that the landlord can deduct money from your bond to pay for professional cleaning, but the Tenancy Tribunal would not enforce these.

As of June 29, 2026, landlords must apply for bond refunds online, not using a paper form. You as the tenant will then receive a letter, email or text from Tenancy

GOOD ADVICE



MARIA FYVIE

Services requiring you to respond within a set time by logging in online using your Tenant Number and agreeing or disagreeing with the refund amount, or replying in writing if you've received a letter.

You can apply for a bond refund yourself, but the form you need will no longer be available on the Tenancy Services website – instead you need to request it from them

or access them through tenant advocate organisations such as the CAB. You can complete and return the form without having it signed by your landlord.

If you want help with your technology, such as phones or email, Ōtaki Library holds digital drop-in sessions on Tuesdays from 2-3pm.

- *If you'd like help with a bond refund, see our volunteers at 65a Main Street, 10am to 1pm Monday-Friday, call us on 06 364 8664 or go to CAB.org.nz and search "bond refund" in the Ask Us box.*

■ *Maria is secretary of Kāpiti CAB*

The risks of an owner-reliant business

It usually starts with a phone call.

A staff member has resigned. A key customer wants a discount. Cashflow is tighter than expected. A supplier has let the business down. A decision has to be made before tomorrow morning.

The owner steps in, makes the call and solves the problem.

For many business owners, that's just another day at work. But it's also a warning sign. If every important decision depends on one person, the business might be successful, but it's also vulnerable.

Governance is often seen as something reserved for corporations with boards, committees and endless meetings. For many small business owners, the word sounds like bureaucracy rather than practical business management.

In reality, good governance is much simpler than that. It's about making better decisions, sharing responsibility and creating a business that can operate successfully without relying on the owner to solve every problem.

That matters because small and medium-sized enterprises are the backbone of New Zealand's economy. They account for about 97 percent of all businesses and employ hundreds of thousands of people. They're the kind of businesses that keep towns like Ōtaki running.

The challenge comes as these businesses grow.

A business with a handful of staff can often operate through the owner's instinct and experience. But once there are employees to manage, systems to oversee, customers to retain and investment decisions to make, relying on one person becomes increasingly risky.

The business might be profitable and well respected, but if every big decision lands on the owner's desk, much of its value exists only because of that person.

This becomes especially important when owners begin thinking about retirement or selling the business. A buyer isn't simply buying equipment, customers or annual revenue. They're buying confidence that the business can continue performing after the owner walks away.

If all the key relationships, knowledge and decision-making is in the owner's head, much of that value disappears with them.

The solution isn't to copy listed companies. Most SMEs don't need that.

Instead, owners should ask: What's the smallest governance structure that will improve our decision-making?

YOUR BUSINESS



CHRIS WHELAN

That could mean working with an independent adviser, establishing an advisory board, setting clearer financial reporting, defining who has authority to make decisions, or scheduling strategy sessions that focus on the future instead of this week's problems.

Good governance creates something many business owners rarely have enough of – time to think strategically

rather than constantly reacting. It also introduces accountability by asking difficult questions. What happens if your biggest customer leaves? Who can run the business if you can't for three months? What would a buyer find during due diligence?

Perhaps the most important question of all is this: Are you building a business, or have you simply created a job that happens to employ other people?

The strongest businesses aren't the ones where the owner has every answer. They're the ones where good decisions can still be made when the owner isn't in the room.

That's the real measure of a resilient, valuable business.

■ *Chris is a business and leadership coach based in Wellington. See chriswhelancoaching.com*



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Neil and Renee Cohen at their Manakau's Famous food hot spot.

Photo Helen Wall

Making Manakau famous for flavour

When Neil and Renee Cohen decided to rename their Manakau Market business, they were not trying to put themselves in the spotlight.

The inspiration came from something they had heard countless times from customers.

"People would come in and say, 'I've heard you guys are famous for your pizzas,' or 'You're famous for your burgers,'" self-confessed foodie Neil says. "It just kept coming up."

And so, after years of building a reputation for quality food and genuine hospitality, Manakau's Famous was born.

The name carries a touch of humour – as a small rural community just north of Ōtaki, Manakau is not usually associated with any kind of fame – but it also reflects the confidence Neil and Renee have in what they create.

"I really believe our food is becoming famous," Neil says.

Part of that reputation is undoubtedly due to a viral Tik Tok clip by son Cooper promoting

Manakau's Famous real fruit ice-cream.

"It got 66 million views – we couldn't believe it," Neil says.

Teenage sons Cooper and Riley are very much part of the family business, working as needed around their studies. They work alongside many other young college students hailing from Levin through to Paraparaumu.

Neil and Renee's approach to the business has always been a desire to provide quality food they would be proud to serve to their own family and friends. The team make most of their offerings from scratch, ensuring the homemade goodness is locked in.

"It's about the quality of ingredients and being proud to put it on a plate," Neil says.

Although Manakau's Famous offers quick service, it is a long way from typical fast food.

"It's quick service with a restaurant behind it," Renee says.

The menu reflects the couple's love of food and their willingness to experiment. Customers

can enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner, with burgers, pizzas, breakfast sandwiches, homemade cakes, coffee, and regular specials that change with Neil's creativity. Wednesday pizza nights have become a special hit with locals who appreciate the fresh ingredients and special New York-style texture and flavour.

The business is also connected to the couple's Quarter Acre Café just down the road, which they now use for catered functions and private events.

Quarter Acre was very much part of their food journey. Kiwi Renee met and married Neil in the United States. They moved to New Zealand in 2007, where they combined their different backgrounds and skills to create a hospitality business.

Neil, who grew up in New York surrounded by food culture, developed his cooking skills through years of experience and mentorship. He credits a chef mentor with teaching him the importance of flavour, preparation and technique.

"Things like stocks, roasting and simmering – the old-school way of bringing flavour out of food – that really changed things for me," he says.

The couple acknowledge each other's strengths, though they both pitch in with everything from serving ice-creams and clearing tables to developing a new business strategy.

The couple say the hospitality business can be demanding, but the reward comes from seeing customers enjoy what's been created for them.

"When someone says it's the best burger or pizza they've ever had, that's what makes it worth it," Neil says.

For Manakau's Famous, the goal is not simply to be a place where people stop on the main highway for food – it's for it to be a destination.

"We want people travelling through to think, 'We have to stop there,'" Neil says. "Great food, great coffee and great service."

At its heart, Manakau's Famous is built on a straightforward principle – real food, real people, and a commitment to doing things right.



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Cynthia’s legacy a garden of dreams

In 1986, Cynthia Christina Coe bought a section in Rangiuru Road with a vision to create a 10-acre garden.

Before subdivision, the block was part of a larger tract of fertile land used for market gardening. In one of her self-published books, *Coehaven Interludes* (1992), she notes: “As an artist, the bringing into being of the gardens was satisfying and as a horticulturalist the learning curves were fascinating.”

As a poet, artist and former dancer, the garden, in her own words, “... allowed me to bring my past world into my present world and best of all, the whole family was able to share in their building with me”.

Her past world influenced the planning and design of the space, and over time the garden began to

OUR HERITAGE



NICKY TREADWELL

resemble an outdoor theatre. While the soil was good, the section copped the wind, especially in the seasons of the equinox.

After futile attempts to create shelter with flowering cherry trees, she was advised by a neighbour to use native trees, of which she planted several species. In one poem, she refers to these trees as the “nursemajds” of the future garden, realising the original five native species she planted did indeed provide the sturdy shelter required: “So my nursemaid trees, I’ll never chop down Though many a fool and many a clown Says, “Why do you want to keep them there?”



Anam Cara – previously Coehaven – has hosted many events, including the Festival of Pots and Garden Art.

*They’re not so pretty I declare!”
I’ll plant them again - a hundred times more
With green karaka and tōtara galore
A thousand five-fingers with leaves broad or narrow.
And my precious pohutukawa and karo.
For as many a gardener like you and I
Knows, without shelter, the garden will die
And there’s one thing we’ve learned, as
Nature will tell
All has a purpose, the ugly as well!”*

In the 1990s, with the garden established, she opened them to the public. Bus tour groups were welcomed, tourists were invited to view the extensive plant collections and locals were encouraged to use the garden for poetry readings. At some point, an existing building – possibly a house or a barn – was taken apart and the timbers used to create an indoor theatre space. “I wanted a place where people

could come to enjoy a poetry reading and listen to some good music... a place where people could retreat to learn, know the peace of nature, and be refreshed in the quiet,” she is quoted as saying. Thus, Coehaven was born and its future as a place of exhibition, celebration and theatre started. Over the next decade, Cynthia and husband Bruce continued to tend and develop the garden, and its use as an exhibition space was utilised for more and more purposes. Sheds, a garage, a gazebo, a punga house and an auditorium were constructed. It was during this time that Cynthia also developed a philanthropic interest. Visitors were asked to donate to World Vision, a charity whose work she embraced. In her book *Coehaven Interludes*, she explains how, in 1950, American Dr Bob

Pearce set up the organisation to find sponsors for children orphaned in the Korean War. For Cynthia, the notion of “common humanity” meant the pain and suffering of others touched all: “Such is the work of World Vision, where there is pain and suffering and urgent need, World Vision will move in to heal. Man’s compassion towards Man, shown through the immeasurable power of love.” At age 62, Cynthia sadly died. She was interred in the Otaki Public Cemetery on November 30, 2004, her death notice naming her occupation as “author”. While it seems she was so much more than that, Cynthia did write other books besides *Coehaven Interludes*. *Early Days in New Zealand* was also self-published in 1993, and in it she writes: “This collection of poems and side scripts on our earlier days in New

Zealand is gathered from readings held in the gardens of Coehaven, Ōtaki.” Another book, also published in 1993, *A Gardener’s Book of Verse*, is similarly described by the University of Canterbury’s library catalogue. Ōtaki Library holds two copies of the small volume *Coehaven Interludes*, while the other books are held at institutions, such as the National Library. After her death, Bruce remained as part-owner of the property, until it was sold in November 2005 to Jubilee Holdings Ltd. The directors of this company continued its purpose as an entertainment venue by including a movie cinema open to the public. In 2012 the property was bought by the Hartendorps, who again kept the gardens as a place for public functions and exhibitions, including as the site of the popular Festival of Pots and Garden Art. In 2018 the property was again sold, and is currently used for weddings, corporate functions and private garden tours by owners Tim and Theresa Grigg. Despite being renamed as Anam Cara, Cynthia’s original dream to create a landscape of beauty has sustained for decades. And her wish that the place be used for art, celebration and ceremony acts is now her legacy 40 years later. Who knows what the property’s future will hold, but whatever the iteration, it will hopefully stay true to Cynthia’s vision. “Part of our responsibility in the husbanding of the Earth is to be the teachers of tomorrow’s world. What a wonderful responsibility, but what an awesome responsibility too when we realise the essence of Man’s nature is the choice as to whether we protect and enhance the complex unity of the Earth’s surface or whether we apply our own will to change things drastically.” – Cynthia Christina Coe 1942-2004

Nothing jagged about latest Players production



Photo YouTube

- Jagged Little Pill
- Ōtaki Players at Civic Theatre
- July 9-25
- Reviewed by Helen Pennell

It was a chilly night for the gala re-opening of the Civic Theatre in Otaki on July 9, but this didn’t deter the enthusiasm of a full house.

Originally leased to the Otaki Players Society in 1991, the theatre had been closed for seismic strengthening and upgrades for more than two years. This was a tremendous return to their home stage by the Players, after having Southwards Theatre in Paraparaumu as a temporary base. Canadian Alanis Morissette (at left) was just a 19-year-old when she wrote the lyrics for her *Jagged Little Pill* album in 1995, seeing the injustice of the world far beyond her years. The first musical was written by Diablo Cody, and premiered in Massachusetts in May 2018. Using songs from her album, the storyline carries numerous threads of life in the seemingly perfect life of the Healy family, centred around the image-conscious mother, teenage years, parties and its aftermath, diversity, racism, a mother losing control, a marriage floundering, leading to opiate abuse. Each scenario was relatable and sometimes confronting.

Every actor played their characters convincingly. A special shout-out to the big solos by the lead players. They tackled the challenging lyrics and music of Alanis Morissette with great voices and theatrics. The music was perfectly in sync with every dance – frenetic and otherwise – and supportive and sympathetic of the singers. There were also some lovely soulful incantations. Also of note was the clever use of flashbacks, using a second player as their conscience, reliving the past and fighting their demons. Hats off for the high energy choreography and the characters’ colourful attire, reminiscent of the 1990s when AM wrote her album. For the New York scene, the vibe of the players and backdrop was fantastic. It has a happy ending, and for the mother, a hard pill to swallow! Because the theatre was a little cold the audience mainly stayed rugged up in their outdoor clothing, but I could still see some fabulous earrings and shoes – it was a gala night after all! This was a superslick production. The Ōtaki Players are a remarkable group of local actors, directors, musical maestros, dancers and singers. • If you missed *Jagged Little Pill*, don’t miss *Mary Poppins Jrn*. The family-friendly musical is on during the October school holidays and offers a great opportunity for the next generation to shine on stage. ■ See otakiplayers.nz

ŌTAKI CONVENT SCHOOL c1963



ŌTAKI CONVENT SCHOOL

Rugby team (early 1960s).

Back row, from left: unknown, Jimmy Brown, Christopher Gimblett, Brian Rasmussen, Stanley Paul, Bernard Chaney, Paul Tennant, Kevin Miritana, Father Hegny.

Front row: Christopher ?, Graham Rasmussen, Wayne Winterburn, Francis Barone, Kevin Retry, Basil Brown, Patrick Huia.

Names and photo courtesy of Margaret Strawbridge, who says: "Not sure what year, it looks like 1963. The majority of those boys would have been born between 1950-1952."

Papers Past:
Ōtaki Mail
April 11, 1932

FOOTBALL (RUGBY)

SEVEN-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT.

The 7-side football tournament, two rounds and a final, held by the Otaki Football Club on the domain on Saturday reflected the greatest credit on the management, all arrangements passing off well. The day was fine and the attendance good. Some splendid displays were given by the six teams, the winners eventually being Otaki "A," who defeated Shannon, after a good game. At the conclusion of the day's sport, Mr. A. Richards, President of the Rugby Council, presented the miniature cups, and in doing so congratulated the players on their displays and the Club on its effort, which he believed was the first of its kind held in the Horowhenua district. Thanks are also due to the referees, Messrs D. Richards, H. Jacob and H. Tahiwi, also to the gatekeeper, Mr. A. Furse, and others who assisted with the arrangements.

The sum of £4 18s was collected at the gates.

Following are the results.

1st Round.

Athletic "B" lost to Otaki "A," 26—0.

Athletic "A" lost to Otaki "B," 8—0.

Shannon beat Otaki "C," 5—0.

2nd Round.

Otaki "A" beat Athletic "A," 14—5.

Otaki "C" beat Athletic "B" 6—0. Shannon beat Otaki "B," 3—0.

Final.

Otaki "A" beat Shannon, 12—0.

The following were the Otaki teams:
Otaki "A": G. Merwood, R. Merwood, J. Huff, G. Gordon, W. Ogier, M. Johnson, M. Ropata.

Otaki "B": P. Mahima, C. Enoka, G. Maddock, S. Sinkinson, W. Marino, P. Wallace, S. Enoka.

Otaki "C": R. Nicolson, P. Cook, Marsden, P. Wilson, D. Tuna, W. Henry, W. Johnson.

Papers Past: Evening Post
September 6, 1958

WOMEN'S TEAMS TO PLAY RUGBY AT OTAKI TOMORROW

OTAKI, Today.—Further proof that there are few sports—boxing and wrestling being two of the exceptions—that women do not actively participate in today will be given tomorrow afternoon when two women's teams will compete in a Rugby match as a curtain-raiser to a benefit match between Wellington Maoris and Vic Ahipeue's XV at Otaki.

It is expected that a little later women's teams representing Otaki and Foxton will compete in a Rugby game also at Otaki. The proceeds will be given to the Otaki Old Folk's Association.—
"Post" Correspondent.

Sing your heart out with Iwi Anthems

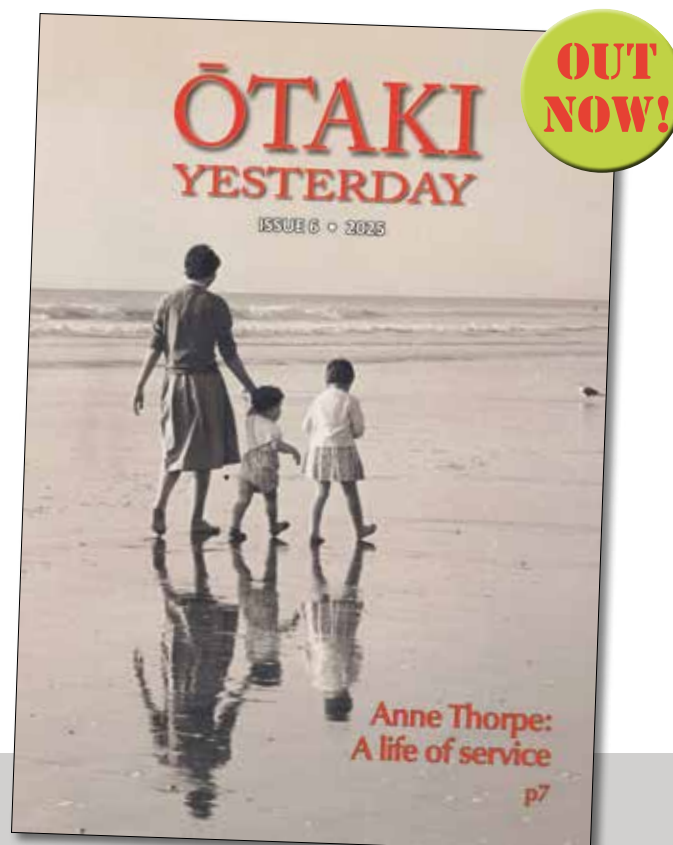
Episodes of the television series *Iwi Anthems* can now be watched in Ngā Taonga Sound & Visions online collection.

From iconic iwi classics and upbeat pātere, to heartfelt ballads and timeless waiata aroha, *Iwi Anthems* captures the soul, warmth, and power of waiata Māori for all to enjoy and sing along with.

More than performance, these anthems are expressions of identity, history, pride, and connection unique to the iwi featured in the series, while also delivering powerful entertainment.

Originally broadcast on Māori Television (now Whakaata Māori) in 2016, the series does more than showcase Māori culture and musical talent. Each half-hour episode is further enhanced by insightful interviews with kaumātua, iwi leaders, and historians. They share the meaning and rich context of these waiata and haka, giving viewers an appreciation for what is embodied in the creation of each significant composition.

■ To watch episodes, visit www.ngataonga.org.nz and search for "Iwi Anthems".



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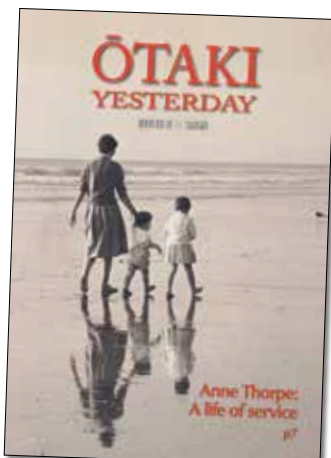
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**"We suffer more in
imagination than in
reality."**

Seneca, Stoic philosopher
of ancient Rome, died 65CE

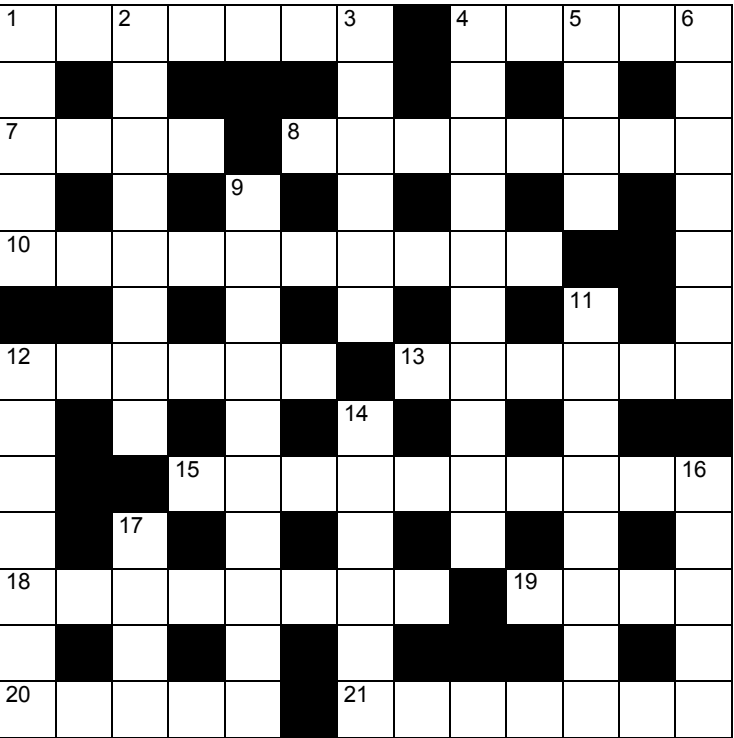
**"The mind is its own
best torturer."**

British author Dame Hilary Mantel

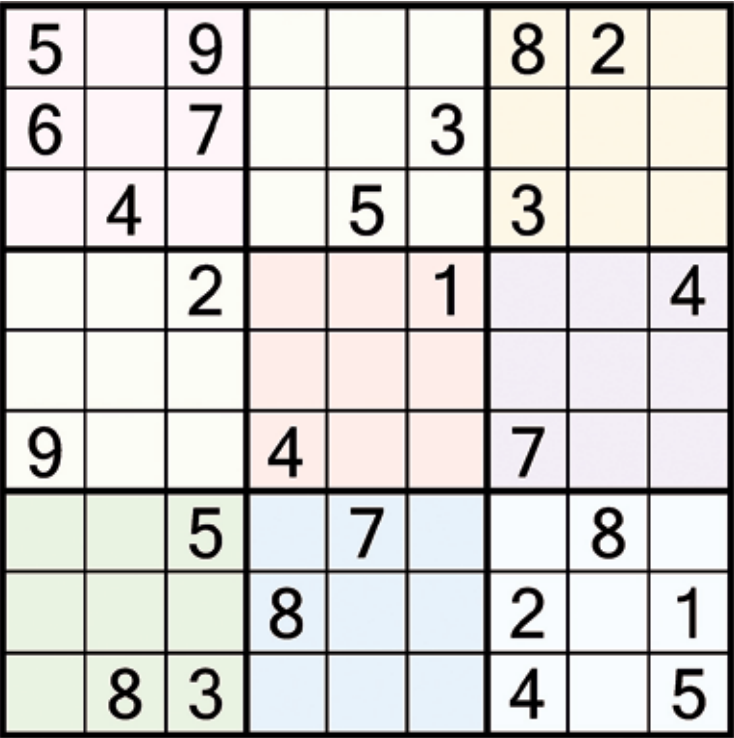
Above all else, guard your
heart, for everything you do
flows from it.



THE CROSSWORD #NZ1962C (answers below right)



SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz
EASY #104M 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. Answers below.



- ACROSS
- 1 Silly and pointless (7)

4/7 All Blacks forwards coach since 2022 (5,4)

8 Every other year (8)

10 New Zealand’s largest kauri, estimated as being 1200-2000 years old (4,6)

12 Native plant popular with honey bees (6)

13 Romantic (6)

15 Popular fruit with only 20 commercial growers in NZ (10)

18 Item central to CanTeen’s main annual fundraiser (8)

19 One of the boys ‘from down on the farm’, partner of Ches (4)

20 Throng of insects (5)

21 Sleep (colloq) (4-3)
- DOWN
- 1 Initial (5)

2 Tuition (8)

3 Of slim build (6)

4 Author of *An Angel at My Table*, born in Dunedin 1924, died there 2004 (5,5)

5 Put into words (4)

6 Cancel out (7)

9 Safety device (5,5)

11 Fanciful story (4,4)

12 Transport vehicle (7)

14 Sport played in the ATP Auckland Open (6)

16 Female relative (5)

17 Quality brand mark for New Zealand apples and pears (4)



COMMONLY KNOWN LATIN WORDS AND PHRASES QUIZ

Answers below left.

1. What does ad hoc mean?.

2. What are the Latin words for “to the point of sickness; to an excessive degree”.

3. Alma mater’s meaning is?

4. What are the Latin words for “In good faith; genuine”?

5. Carpe diem means?

6. Caveat emptor means?

7. What are the Latin words for “In fact; in reality”?

8. Therefore in Latin is?

9. Et cetera means?

10. “Through my own fault” in Latin is?

11. For the good; for a professional service offered free of charge, in Latin is?

12. The stiffness of death in Latin is?

13. Quid pro quo means?

14. The other way around; with the position reversed in Latin is?

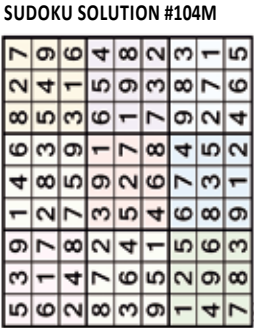
15. I forbid; the power to reject something in Latin is?

16. Cogito, ergo sum means?

17. E pluribus unum means?

18. Status quo means?

LATIN QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Formed for a particular purpose. 2. Ad nauseam. 3. Nourishing mother; one’s college or university. 4. Bona fide. 5. Seize the day. 6. Let the buyer beware. 7. De facto. 8. Ergo. 9. And so on. 10. Mee culpa. 11. Pro bono. 12. Rigor mortis. 13. Something for something; an exchange. 14. Vice versa. 15. Veto. 16. I think, therefore I am. 17. Out of many, one; the motto of the United States. 18. The existing state of affairs.



CROSSWORD #1962C ANSWERS
ACROSS: 1. Fatuous, 4/7. Jason Ryan, 8. Biennial, 10. Tāne Mahuta, 12. Mānuka, 13. Dreamy, 15. Watermelon, 18. Bandanna, 19. Dale, 20. Swarm, 21. Shut-eye.
DOWN: 1. First, 2. Training, 3. Slight, 4. Janet Frame, 5. Said, 6. Nullify, 9. Smoke alarm, 11. Tall tale, 12. Minibus, 14. Tennis, 16. Niece, 17. ENZA.



Ōtaki River entrance tides
August 5 – September 9

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

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

	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
WED 5 AUG	01:46	08:04	14:14	20:25	-
THU 6 AUG	02:37	08:55	15:10	21:25	-
FRI 7 AUG	03:37	09:55	16:19	22:37	-
SAT 8 AUG	04:46	11:07	17:39	23:56	-
SUN 9 AUG	06:03	12:26	18:58	-	-
MON 10 AUG	-	01:10	07:19	13:38	20:04
TUE 11 AUG	-	02:13	08:25	14:38	20:59
WED 12 AUG	-	03:08	09:22	15:30	21:48
THU 13 AUG	-	03:57	10:11	16:17	22:33
FRI 14 AUG	-	04:43	10:56	17:00	23:15
SAT 15 AUG	-	05:26	11:38	17:41	23:55
SUN 16 AUG	-	06:07	12:17	18:21	-
MON 17 AUG	00:35	06:47	12:56	19:01	-
TUE 18 AUG	01:14	07:27	13:34	19:42	-
WED 19 AUG	01:55	08:08	14:17	20:28	-
THU 20 AUG	02:41	08:54	15:07	21:24	-
FRI 21 AUG	03:36	09:49	16:13	22:35	-
SAT 22 AUG	04:43	11:00	17:33	23:55	-
SUN 23 AUG	06:00	12:19	18:50	-	-
MON 24 AUG	-	01:04	07:10	13:25	19:47
TUE 25 AUG	-	01:57	08:06	14:15	20:31
WED 26 AUG	-	02:40	08:50	14:55	21:08
THU 27 AUG	-	03:17	09:28	15:31	21:42
FRI 28 AUG	-	03:51	10:02	16:05	22:14
SAT 29 AUG	-	04:25	10:35	16:38	22:46
SUN 30 AUG	-	04:59	11:09	17:12	23:20
MON 31 AUG	-	05:34	11:43	17:48	23:56
TUE 1 SEP	-	06:12	12:20	18:27	-
WED 2 SEP	00:35	06:52	13:01	19:11	-
THU 3 SEP	01:20	07:38	13:49	20:04	-
FRI 4 SEP	02:14	08:31	14:49	21:09	-
SAT 5 SEP	03:20	09:37	16:06	22:28	-
SUN 6 SEP	04:38	10:57	17:35	23:51	-
MON 07 SEP	06:03	12:21	18:54	-	-
TUE 8 SEP	-	01:04	07:18	13:31	19:55
WED 9 SEP	-	02:03	08:18	14:27	20:45

NOTICE OF AGM

ŌTAKI PROMOTIONS GROUP INC

The Ōtaki Promotions Group AGM 2026 will be held:
5.30pm
Monday, 24 August, at
RiverStone Cafe,
Old State Highway 1, Ōtaki.

All members of the Society and the public welcome.

Contact: Secretary Kirsty Doyle
skedoyle@gmail.com



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Master Blasters div 3 champs

By Frank Neill

The Ōtaki Master Blasters are the 2026 Horowhenua-Kāpiti division 3 football champions.

The Master Blasters won the title when they defeated Kāpiti Coast United Force 2-1 on August 1. To do so, the Blasters had to come back from a 0-1 halftime deficit.

They dominated the second spell, however, and this saw Dubbs Reynold and Tipene Roa find the back of the net.

The team started the match second on the table on 16 points, two points behind the Force. The three points for the August 1 victory saw them edge ahead and become the 2026 champions.

Ōtaki's premier men's team, Purutaitama, also featured when the competition finished on August 1. They placed second behind the Waikanae Rangers. The Waikanae Jets defaulted the scheduled August 1 match and Purutaitama had a bye on July 25.

In the last game the team played, on July 18, they convincingly defeated the Raumati Cosmos 3-1. Purutaitama led 3-0 at halftime after Travis Robertson, Te Hau Cook and Tom Mackley netted goals.

Purutaitama won the local derby against Manakau Hui Mai 1-0 on July 4. Travis scored the match's only goal.

The Horowhenua-Kāpiti Cup competitions now begin, on August 8.

Meantime, premier women's team Ōtaki Kāeaea won one, drew one and lost three of its matches during the past five weeks.

Playing in the women's Capital division 1, Kāeaea defeated Lower Hutt City 2-0 on June 28. They then met top-of-the-table Naenae on July 5, losing the match 0-9.

There was no play on July 12, and they drew with Brooklyn Northern United 1-1 on July 19.

However they lost their next two matches, beaten 1-2 by Douglas Villa on July 26 and 1-3 by Wellington United Opals on August 2.

Whiti in grand final

from front page

However their comeback ended there, with the score at 20-12.

Fourth-placed Toa upset top-placed St George Dragons 21-8 in the other semi final to earn their grand final appearance.

Whiti te Rā qualified for their semi-final after dominating the Porirua Vikings in their quarter final, winning 62-18 on July 18.

Playing on their home ground at Ōtaki Domain, Whiti led the match by 24-12 at halftime. Manawanui Rikihana was in outstanding form for the home team, scoring an almost unprecedented six tries.

Mason Couchman also dotted down twice. Levi Kemp, playing in his 50th match for his team, Joel Winterburn, Teariki Peneha and Ben Hanara also scored tries, and Aaron Taiapa kicked seven conversions.

The team had a bye on July 11.

The final will be played at the Hutt Recreation Ground on Saturday (August 8). Kick-off is at 3pm.

Joel Winterburn looks to pass during Whiti te Rā's big quarter-final victory over the Porirua Vikings. *Photo Frank Neill*



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