

# ŌTAKI TODAY

Ngā kōrero o Ōtaki

MEI/MAY 2026

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Heavy machinery seen on May 11 signals the beginning of work at Moy Estate.

Photo Ōtaki Today

## Moy Estate under way

By Ian Carson

**Work on Moy Estate is under way after legal wrangles over access, and a new investment arrangement.**

South Island's Ngai Tahu Properties has joined Wakefield Group Holdings (WGH) in a 50:50 joint venture to develop the land at 33 Old State Highway 1, Ōtaki.

Real estate sales records last month showed the land as having been sold, fuelling local speculation that WGH had withdrawn from the project and that a new owner might not develop the land as originally planned.

A WGH spokesperson, however, told *Ōtaki Today* that the sale notice reflected the fact that the company had simply entered a development joint

venture with Ngai Tahu Properties.

"WGH are still in the ownership, and development plans are unchanged," he said.

The development is to go ahead as planned under current consents.

It's also understood that home building company Jennian Homes is to be involved in constructing some of the houses on the 137 sections.

The first 50 properties at Moy Estate will be available for sale early in 2027.

It will be the first of three development phases – release of properties in the other two phases will depend on the market.

The development was originally approved for referral under the Covid19 (Fast Track Consenting) Act, rather than the Resource

Management Act. It became contentious when residents of Sue Avenue and Moy Place were advised that access to Moy Estate would be through their quiet streets, rather than directly from the old highway. They argued that Kāpiti Coast District Council should not dedicate a reserve at the end of Moy Ave as a legal road, which would allow access.

The council voted in December 2024 in favour of the residents. However, WGH last year sought a judicial review of the decision. The High Court set aside the council decision and told the council to reconsider.

With the judicial review clearly stating the council was legally wrong in its decision, the new council voted to change the legal status of the reserve to a road.

## Rāhui back on track

By Frank Neill

**Rāhui's premier rugby team dominated Levin College Old Boys on Saturday (May 9), winning 34-18 at Ōtaki Domain.**

The win puts Rāhui in fourth place on Horowhenua-Kāpiti's Ramsbotham Cup table with 16 points after a patchy start to the season. Foxton is well ahead at the top of the table on 35 points, Waikanae is second on 22, and Levin Wanderers 18.

Playing on their home ground, Rāhui led College Old Boys 22-14 at half time. They ran in five tries for the game, with Haapi Nikora, Piwika Cook, Frederick Moamanu, Raniera Chapman and Leon Ellison all dotting down. Leon added three conversions and a penalty.

On April 18, Rāhui defended the taongā Te Rae Tutaki against Levin Wanderers. For the first time in the history of the competition the match ended in a draw, 28-all. The draw saw Rāhui retain the taongā for another year.

Player unavailability led to Rāhui defaulting its next match when they were due to play Foxton on April 25. They ended up fielding a team five days later, midweek, against Foxton at Playford Park, Levin. Foxton won 53-21 to cement their lead at the top of the table.

Sonsun Moananu and Cameron Graham scored tries, and Rāhui was awarded a penalty try. Leon Ellison chalked up his 100th point for the Rāhui premiers with two conversions.

Rāhui will celebrate Old Timers Day on Saturday, May 16, when they play Levin Wanderers at Ōtaki Domain.

■ **More sport page 20**

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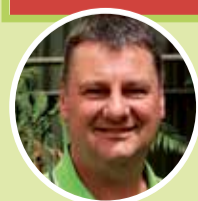
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**TOTE MODERN MAY ARTISTS** The Otaki Pottery Club's May exhibition at the Tote Modern Gallery is titled *Creative Mud and Quirky Strokes*, showcasing the ceramic works of guest potter Jojo Hare, and the paintings of Holly Chapman. Tote Modern Gallery, Ōtaki Race Course, Te Roto Rd. Open 10am-3pm Friday-Sunday.



**ŌTAKI MUSEUM** 49 Main St. 06 364-6886. *Te Tāone o Ōtaki: Ōtaki Town: 1920-1989* Presenting the town's changes during the years of the Ōtaki Borough Council – part of our series on the creation and development of Ōtaki. Visitors can also play the old theatre pianola while at the museum. The Anne Thorpe Reading Room is open at the same times as the museum. Museum open 10am-2pm Thursday to Saturday, except public holidays.

**REPAIR CAFÉ** Bring your treasures or broken items to the repair cafe where skilled volunteers will try to fix them. If possible, email [otaki.repaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:otaki.repaircafe@gmail.com) beforehand about your problem. Also at the cafe from 10am-2pm Sunday, June 7, free electric blanket checks. Home-baked delicacies and a cuppa at the Refreshment Café hosted by the Otaki Crop Swap Group. More volunteers are welcome – learn new skills or refresh old ones (ie, sewing, knife sharpening, basic bike repair).

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

**TE ATA PŪAO** (The first light of dawn) exhibition at Toi Matarau Gallery champions Māori and Indigenous artists. Featured artists Dempsey Bob, Tayla Hartemink and Steve Gibbs, with Springboard Recipient 2026 AJ Manaaki Hope. Until May 24, Māoriland Hub, Main St, Ōtaki. Open Monday to Saturday 11am-4pm. See [toi.maorilandfilm.co.nz](http://toi.maorilandfilm.co.nz)

**COMMUNITY BOARDS** The next **Ōtaki Community Board** meeting is 7pm Tuesday, June 2 at the Gertrude Atmore room next to the library. The next **Waikanae Community Board** meeting is 6.30pm at Waikanae Community Centre, 28 Utauta St. The public is welcome at meetings. Search "meetings and agendas" at [kapiticoast.govt.nz](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz) To speak at a meeting, register by calling 04 296 4700 or 0800 486 486, or email [democracy.services@kapiticoast.govt.nz](mailto:democracy.services@kapiticoast.govt.nz)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**KĀPITI HOMEOPATHY FOR CHILDREN** A charitable children's clinic for 12 years and under. 2nd Saturday of each month in Paraparaumu. Helping families to care for their children naturally, by offering a holistic option in natural healthcare. Accessible for families who would like the benefit of Homeopathic Support. Koha appreciated. Contact: [kapitihomeopathyforchildren@gmail.com](mailto:kapitihomeopathyforchildren@gmail.com)  
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# Is MMP right for the times?

**OUR MMP electoral system carries the blame for a great deal of the political and economic woes currently taking up headlines around the country, as we move into the last six months of the allotted time period for the National-led coalition government.**



BRUCE KOHN

The Mixed Member Proportional system for creating a parliament was devised to prevent the rise within a democracy of a tyrannical figure such as Adolph Hitler through the Nazi Party's commanding

majority in the German equivalent of our House of Representatives.

Within our environment it is demonstrating in spades the success of the creators by: hamstringing the majority party in implementing its policies as advocated at the last election; curbing the unwritten code between voters and political parties that policies enunciated during election campaigns will be implemented if they are in government; and ruled out any certainty that visionary policies covering a five to 10 year plan can be carried out.

For evidence look no further than headlines of the past month. Winston Peters as a member of the government jousting in public with the prime minister over the New Zealand position on Donald Trump's decision to have America attack Iran; Shane Jones leading a charge against his own government on elements of the free trade agreement with India.

Under the old FPP (First Past the Post) system of representation, members of the minor parties who make up the coalition would for the most part be members of the National Party. Arguments on policies or approaches to

be taken on such matters as the Iran war and the trade agreement would have been verbally fought out in caucus behind closed doors.

Foreign countries with an interest in the outcome would not have had the access to intimate government thinking on the issue to the extent they now have because the elements that make up a conservative party – right wing, liberal and centrist – are each separately represented. Each fights for its own public constituency at the polls, whereas previously as individuals they hammered out compromise behind closed doors.

The public would have added access to the broad outlines of the debate through media leaks from participants. Occasionally outright splits would occur – think Derek Quigley splitting from Prime Minister Robert Muldoon; think Marilyn Waring differing from the same prime minister on matters nuclear. And in earlier years between Tom Shand on the right of the Holyoake administration, Ralph Hanan on the liberal side, and Sir Keith Holyoake leading the middle roaders.

It was Hanan who led the way to the abolition of capital punishment in New Zealand, to whom Sir Keith, following a cabinet meeting, muttered in jest: "Do you always cock your leg when you leak?"

Proponents of a four-year electoral term of government tend to focus on advantages that would accrue if a government had an extra year in which to conduct its policies. Among these advantages might be more time for consultation with stakeholders, more time for considered debate in Parliament and a better capability to enact policies contained in election manifestos.

It was Robert Muldoon who declared to Wellington economists that he would never introduce a four-year term of government unless there was a legislative mechanism such as an upper chamber to provide a check on the activities of a dominant party in power.

MMP provides the check on the party that receives the most votes at an election. But it foils the ability of any government to undertake with assurance a long-term programme of reform if

this includes elements that coalition partners might contest in public for their own potential electoral gain.

Academics often lament the lack in New Zealand of public consensus harnessed by one party into a comprehensive strategy for the country's progress. The necessity for it becomes clearer as the world moves into what has been termed a 19th century-style multipolar world where might is right and power becomes the arbiter of dispute.

New Zealand requires a strategy for managing it, not just for today or tomorrow but a decade out. What will be the world look like if Iran holds off the U.S. bid to curtail its nuclear ambitions and potentially restore a better human rights approach in Tehran? Would such an outcome embolden the clerics and their military backers to go to even greater lengths in seeking to promote their powers within the region than simply proxy encouragement.

Such a Kiwi strategy must embrace security (defence), energy, infrastructure, technology, and trade along with economic and foreign policies. Separate focus on one or two at a time, as has become a feature of governments under MMP, is no longer fit for purpose. We live now in a world where adherence to such pre-Trump beliefs as the existence of international law have little practical meaning.

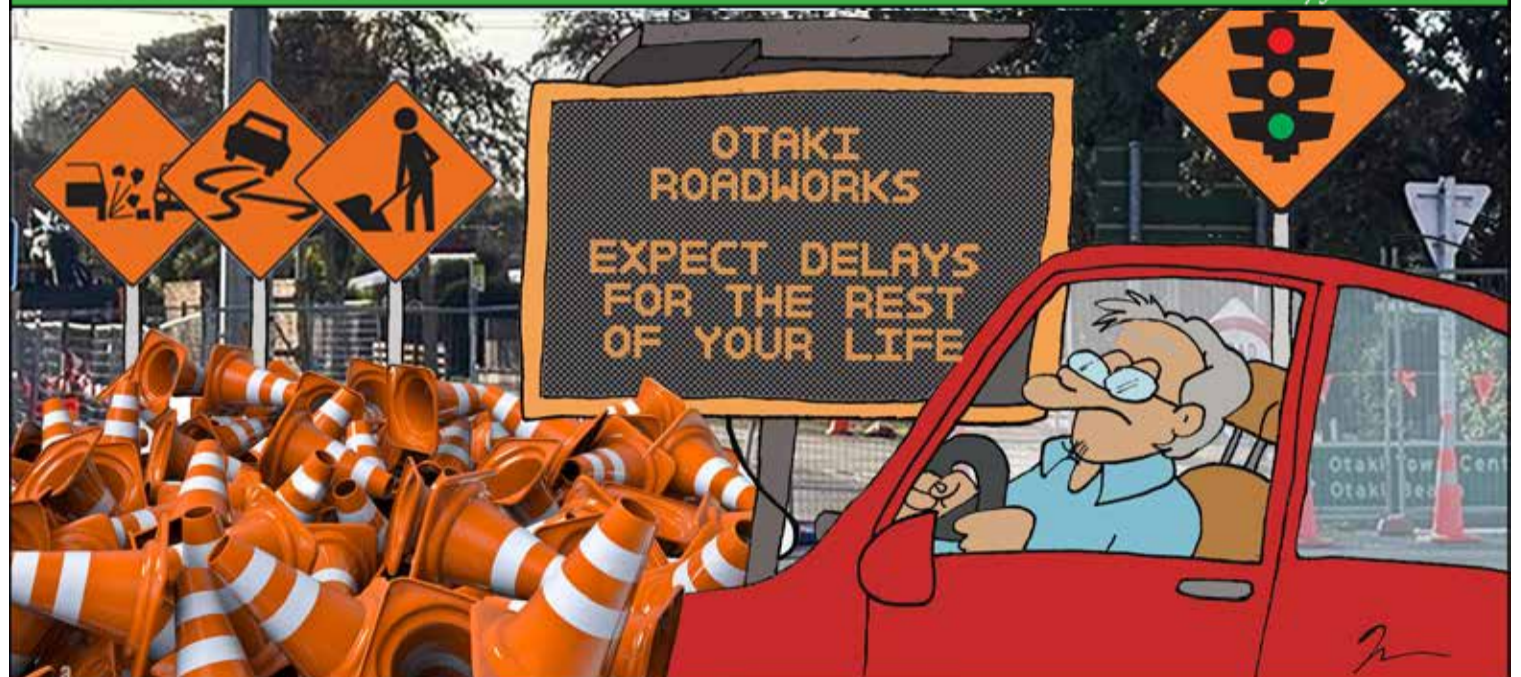
It is becoming more and more likely that the Trump era of personalised Maga policies may be reined in by the US Congress after November's mid-term elections. Adherence to more consensual global politicking and improved relations between Western Europe and America might follow.

But against the backdrop of uncertainty that clouds international relationships we need to fashion our domestic policies and global outlook into a strategic package that reflects the world as it is, not as we might wish it to be. Is MMP right for the times?

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

## CARTOON OF THE MONTH

By Jared Carson



## ŌTAKI TODAY *Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki*

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# Expressway concerns as costs soar

By Ian Carson

**Rising fuel prices could push up costs on the Ōtaki to north of Levin (Ō2NL) expressway project if current market conditions continue.**

Transport agency NZTA says it is “closely monitoring” fuel availability, price movements and wider developments in the fuel market amid growing concern over increasing costs for construction-related commodities.

The warning comes as work ramps up on the Te Pae o Tararua project, one of the largest transport infrastructure projects under way in New Zealand.

“If current conditions continue, it is likely that NZTA and others will face higher costs for key commodities which underpin construction

activity, freight movement, and the operation of heavy machinery,” NZTA said.

Despite those concerns, NZTA says the expressway project remains on target.

“Project contracts have mechanisms for dealing with price fluctuations,” the agency told *Ōtaki Today*. “Currently the project is running on programme and within budget.”

The comments highlight the significant exposure large-scale infrastructure projects have to global fuel markets, with diesel prices directly affecting earthmoving machinery, freight transport and construction logistics.

Work on the new highway has accelerated in recent months, with contractors already moving about 750,000 cubic metres of earth across the route – about a sixth of the 4.5 million cubic metres expected to be shifted during the

project.

The current earthworks programme includes topsoil removal, vegetation clearance, haul road construction and the creation of large earth bunds throughout the corridor.

About 70 ponds have also been constructed so far. Some are sediment retention ponds designed to capture and clean runoff water, while others are reservoirs used for construction activities such as dust suppression.

Bridge and underpass construction is also gathering pace across the project. The largest structure planned is the 200-metre-long, five-span Ōhau Awa bridge. A temporary staging bridge is being built, with permanent piling work expected to begin later this month.

Early works are under way on the South Manakau Road underpass and the North

Manakau Road overpass. Three major site access points are either operating or under construction along State Highway 1. Two are already in use – one near Tatum Park and another near the rest area north of Ōtaki. A third is being developed near the southern end of the project, close to the existing expressway.

Environmental mitigation work also continues across the corridor. Stream diversions are under way where waterways are affected by earthworks. Aquatic life is being relocated before streams are redirected around construction zones.

The project has also uncovered a range of native lizard species. So far, 27 lizards – including ornate skinks, northern grass skinks and glossy brown skinks – have been found and relocated to a predator proof area east of Levin



## Library celebrates 90 years

Ōtaki Library – at least on its present location – has turned 90. To celebrate, the library has an exhibition curated by Ōtaki Heritage, with period furniture and old library books. The first library in Ōtaki was in Tasman Road in 1872. In 1936, a new library was opened in the then Municipal Chambers – where the library is now near the corner of Aotaki Street and Main Street.

LEFT: Gail Hall reads an Agatha Christie novel at the Ōtaki Library exhibition.

Photo Ōtaki Today

RIGHT: The old library building in 1981.

Photo Kete Horowhenua



## Bill gets chance to progress

**A bill with implications for Ōtaki has been chosen to progress through Parliament.**

Ōtaki electorate MP Tim Costley’s private members’ bill has been literally picked from a parliamentary biscuit tin. It aims to simplify access to government services by forcing agencies to align their administrative boundaries with existing local authority areas.

That would mean all government services for Ōtaki would be based within the Kāpiti Coast District Council boundary. He cites misalignments between MSD and Kāinga Ora boundaries. Ōtaki residents have to go to Levin to see MSD, but to Porirua for Kāinga Ora.

■ See column page 10

# Ōtaki Real Estate.

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# Solar panels to boost marae resilience

By Ian Carson

**Raukawa Marae is set to play a key role in Ōtaki's emergency preparedness, as Kāpiti Coast District Council rolls out solar and battery systems for community hubs throughout the district.**

The marae – and Whakarongotai Marae in Waikanae – are two of eight sites included in a resilience project delivered in partnership with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) and the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (Wremo).

The initiative will equip key community facilities with independent power supplies, allowing them to remain operational during outages caused by severe weather, flooding, earthquakes or other emergencies.

For Ōtaki, Raukawa Marae's inclusion is particularly significant. As a central gathering place for many in the community, it already has an important role in times of need. With the addition of solar panels and battery storage, it will be better equipped to provide a warm, dry and powered space when the wider network is under strain.

Deputy Mayor Martin Halliday says recent events have highlighted



Raukawa Marae, which is to have solar panels installed. Photo Ōtaki Today

the importance of local resilience.

“Events like Cyclone Gabrielle have reinforced the need for places where communities can gather, access information and support one another during emergencies,” he says. “By investing in solar and battery systems, we’re helping ensure our communities have access to essential power – for things like charging phones and running critical devices – so they can stay connected during prolonged outages.”

EECA is contributing up to 75 percent of the project's cost, with the Kāpiti council funding the remainder and retaining responsibility for maintenance.

Outside emergency situations, the systems will also reduce electricity costs and lower carbon emissions for participating sites.

The project builds on other resilience initiatives, including the installation of community emergency water tanks.



Blobs of jellyfish line the high tide mark at Ōtaki Beach on March 23.

## Big wobblies on beach

**Thousands of strange jellyfish greeted early morning walkers at Ōtaki Beach on March 23.**

The jellyfish, identified for Ōtaki Today as lion's mane jellyfish (*cyanea rosea*) by Earth Sciences, were washed up at the high tide mark overnight. Long-time Ōtaki resident Neale Ames said he'd never seen anything like it.

The jellyfish get their name from their spectacular, flowing tentacles that look like a lion's mane. They're New Zealand's largest species of jellyfish and can grow up to 2.5 metres in diameter with tentacles reaching up to 30 metres long.

Earth Sciences say little is known about the biology of these jellyfish.

Since being first sighted at Ōtaki, there have been reports of them on other west coast beaches, from



One of the jellyfish, the size of a dinner plate, on Ōtaki Beach.

Photos Ōtaki Today

Titahi Bay up to Hokio Beach at Levin. There were also sightings last year on Nelson beaches.

Advice is not to go near them, even if dead – they can deliver a painful sting to humans and pets. If you're stung, rinse with freshwater, not seawater.

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# Plenty of local cemetery space

By Ian Carson

**Ōtaki residents are in the fortunate position of having cemetery capacity for decades to come, even as Kāpiti Coast District Council looks for a new district-wide burial site.**

The council has begun assessing land on the Kāpiti Coast to identify a suitable location for a future cemetery, after studies showed growing pressure on existing sites throughout the district. Waikanae Cemetery is expected to reach capacity within the next few years, increasing demand on other areas.

However, Ōtaki is in a far stronger position. It has the largest remaining capacity in the district and is expected to meet both ash and full-body interment needs for “a number of decades”, says council parks, open space and environment manager Gareth Eloff.

He says the proposed new site is not intended to replace local cemeteries, but to complement them.

“We are looking for enough land – about seven to 10 hectares – to provide the Kāpiti district with 50 years of future cemetery capacity across the network,” he says. “This would be a district-wide cemetery, so as our other local cemeteries reach capacity, we have an alternative for people to inter their loved ones.”

The move would not mean existing public cemeteries, such as that in Ōtaki, would stop being used or expanded.

“The assessment will look at all land within the district, including land surrounding existing cemeteries. In most cases where cemeteries are not yet at capacity, we will continue optimising the use of remaining land within existing footprints.”



Photo Ōtaki Today

Gareth says the high cost and complexity of acquiring and developing cemetery land is a key reason for taking a district-wide approach, rather than repeatedly expanding or establishing smaller sites over time.

While Ōtaki’s outlook is positive, Gareth cautions that projections are based on current trends and could change. Factors such as population growth, burial preferences and demand from outside the district all influence how long capacity will last.

“Any fundamental changes in any of these variables, or a catastrophic event within the region, would considerably diminish the remaining capacity,” he says.

The site assessment process for the new

Kāpiti cemetery will continue through this year, with a report expected in early 2027 to guide the next steps.

**Ōtaki Cemetery, above, which has capacity for interments for decades to come. Capacity for natural burials is limited (see below).**

ŌTAKI CEMETERY		
Interment type	Plot availability as of 2024	Current interment expiry
Ash interment	1904	2073 to 2076
Body interment	1734	+2085
Natural burials	84	2030 to 2033
Returned Services	96	2067 to 2070



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GUEST OPINION

# The AI stakes are high for communities

By Phil Malpas

**A REALITY we don't often say out loud: AI is already influencing decisions that affect our communities – and we are not yet in control of how or why those decisions are made.**

This is not a future issue. It is a present challenge.

And for those focused on co-operation, energy, and resilience, the stakes are higher than they first appear. Because AI does not operate in isolation. It operates inside the systems we depend on – energy, supply chains, finance, and information. And those systems are already under strain.

We live in a globally connected economy that works only because energy flows continuously – especially liquid fuels. Every good, every service, every delivery depends on it.

There is no immediate shortage. But even the possibility of disruption changes behaviour:

- prices rise
- security issues increase
- people begin to act defensively rather than cooperatively.

Consider what happens if that flow is interrupted. Transport slows. Distribution falters. Access to essentials becomes uncertain.

At that point, resilience is no longer theoretical – it becomes local, immediate, and very real.

And this is where the connection to AI becomes critical. Because AI is increasingly being used to guide decisions about:

- resource allocation
- logistics and distribution
- pricing and demand
- infrastructure planning.



Phil Malpas has worked in IT consulting and lectured in management accounting and computer studies. He is discussing the issues in this article at a public meeting in the Gertrude Atmore room at 7pm on Wednesday May 27.

But here's the problem – most of those systems are optimised for efficiency and profit, not for community resilience.

So if we simply adopt AI without question, we risk reinforcing the very structures that leave us exposed. That is the danger.

But there is also an opportunity, if we approach this differently.

A co-operative, community, model changes the question. Instead of asking, "How do we use AI to maximise return?", we ask, "How do we use AI to strengthen shared resilience?"

That shift matters. Because resilience is not built through centralised control alone. It is built through distributed capability – local generation, local knowledge, local decision-making.

- In energy, that means:
- decentralised renewable generation

- community ownership
- reduced dependence on vulnerable supply chains.

In communities, it means:

- stronger local networks
- shared responsibility
- trust-based systems that can function under stress.

AI can support that, but only if it is directed toward those goals.

Otherwise, it will do the opposite. It will:

- centralise decision-making
- prioritise efficiency over redundancy
- reduce local visibility in favour of aggregated data.

And when disruption comes, those highly optimised systems can fail quickly – because they were never designed to absorb shocks. So this brings us to the real issue.

Not whether AI is good or bad. But whether we are prepared to shape its use in a way that aligns with co-operative values and long-term resilience.

Because we already depend on each other.

The energy system depends on coordinated effort. Communities depend on trust and participation. And resilience depends on people understanding their role within the whole.

AI does not replace that. It either strengthens it, or weakens it.

So here is the question we need to confront:

Will we use AI to deepen dependence on fragile, centralised systems, or will we use it to build stronger, more self-reliant, co-operative communities? Because if we don't actively choose the second path, the first will happen by default.

And by the time we feel the consequences, our ability to respond may already be limited.

## Proposed rates increase 6.5%

**Kāpiti Coast District Council is proposing an average rates increase of 6.5 percent for the 2026-27 year.**

Mayor Janet Holborow says the council is keeping to the Long-term Plan commitment to hold the overall rates increase to no more than 7 percent, despite additional operational, regulatory, and financial pressures pushing the projected rates rise to 8.9 percent.

"Most of these pressures are beyond our control, so we've found as many savings as we can while ensuring we maintain current levels of service," Janet says.

Staff and project costs have been cut by \$1.9 million, some fees and charges have been raised, and a planned rates debt reduction has been paused.

"We know households and businesses are feeling similar cost pressures," Janet says. "Setting budgets and rates is always a fine balance between managing rising costs with investing in core services and infrastructure that have a direct impact on how our community lives, works and does business . . . now and in the future."

The savings don't affect service levels, so the council won't be formally consulting on the 2026-27 Annual Plan. However it says it still welcomes feedback. There will be public sessions Public sessions from 10am-noon and 5-6pm, Tuesday, May 26, in the Civic Building foyer, Paraparaumu

■ Email [annualplan@kapiticoast.govt.nz](mailto:annualplan@kapiticoast.govt.nz) to share your views, and see the Annual Plan at [kapiticoast.govt.nz/annualplan](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz/annualplan)

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# Ruling leaves land owner in quandary

By Ian Carson

**A recent Māori Appellate Court decision confirming two blocks of land in Ōtaki are Māori freehold land – rather than general land as believed at the time of purchase – has left the local owner in a quandary about future use.**

Round Corner Ltd bought the land – two adjoining sections known as Moutere 8B2 Sec 1 Lot 3 and Lot 5 opposite the BP petrol station – in 2021 with plans to develop it for mixed retail and residential use.

“The land was not identified as being Māori land,” a Round Corner spokesperson told *Ōtaki Today*. “At the time of purchase, the land was shown on the Linz [Land Information NZ] and Māori Land Court websites as being general land.”

He said Māori Land Court internal records showed that questions about the status of the land were initially raised within the court in 2007 and again by the registrar in 2015, but due to procedural errors and clerical inaction nothing happened for nearly a decade.

In the meantime, the land was bought and sold twice as general land and it continued to be shown on the Māori Land Court website as general land until mid 2025.

In late 2023 the court started proceedings to determine the status of the land, with a ruling being made in late 2025.

“If the latest judgment is to stand, we will find ourselves owners of land that is worth considerably less than what we paid for it, where it is unclear whether it can be developed as intended or not, and where the process to sell



The vacant land at the intersection of Old Main Highway and Rāhui Road that Round Corner Ltd intended to develop for mixed retail and residential use. Photo *Ōtaki Today*

is complex – all through no fault of our own, and entirely due to failures within the Māori Land Court Registry,” the Round Corner spokesperson said.

In its reserved judgment released in March, the Māori Appellate Court upheld an earlier Māori Land Court ruling that the blocks are Māori freehold land and should not be converted to general land.

The appeal, however, highlighted historic inaccuracies within Māori Land Court records and Linz records, stemming from the Māori Freehold Land Registration Project launched in 2005.

The court heard that during the project,

some Māori Land Court staff recorded land as “general land” on memorial schedules without a formal judicial determination being made.

The Māori Appellate Court judges described the practice as deeply concerning.

“We were surprised to learn that court staff had noted on the memorial schedule that the land is general land when no such determination had been made by a judge,” the court said. “Clearly this approach was wrong and this entry should not have been made unless a formal status order had been granted.”

Despite that criticism, the court rejected Round Corner’s argument that the deputy registrar was “estopped” – or legally prevented

from later applying to formally determine the status of the land.

Round Corner argued it relied on the land appearing to be general land when it bought the blocks.

However, the court found there was insufficient evidence the company or its lawyers had relied on Māori Land Court records when carrying out due diligence. Instead, the courts said evidence showed the purchaser relied primarily on Linz title records, which did not flag the properties as Māori freehold land.

Round Corner argued the court should allow the land to remain general land because Māori freehold status would reduce development opportunities and make financing more difficult.

However, the court said the company failed to provide “full and cogent evidence” that the proposed development could not proceed while the land remained Māori freehold land.

The judges noted there was no evidence the Unit Titles Act could not apply, nor proof that alternative legal structures, such as partitions or leasehold arrangements, could not achieve the same outcome.

The court also pointed to recent banking sector changes aimed at improving Māori access to finance, including lending products specifically designed for Māori freehold land.

The judges reaffirmed the principles of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act, which emphasises the retention of Māori land for future generations and recognises whenua Māori as a taonga tuku iho.

“The primary objective of the Act is the retention of Māori land,” the court said.

# Contact me at my Kāpiti office

020 438 8462

kapiti@parliament.govt.nz

6 Te Roto Dr, Paraparaumu

**Tim Costley**  
MP for Ōtaki

**National**



Authorised by Tim Costley, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



# Wakefields Lawyers – new office for locals

**L**EGAL ADVICE just got easier as Wakefield Lawyers settle in to new offices in Ōtaki.

The trusted law firm now operates from modern, ground-floor premises in Arthur Street – near the railway station – designed with the local community in mind.

The Ōtaki team moved into their new offices in December, making a conscious decision to prioritise ease of access, particularly for older clients and those with mobility needs. The result is a welcoming, convenient space where clients can feel comfortable discussing life's important matters.

The Ōtaki office is home to a dedicated team of six experienced professionals: Director and Solicitor Betsyn McHardy, Registered Legal Executive Emma Henderson, Legal Executive Lisa Mabey, Solicitors Karen Musson and Emma Baines, and Legal Assistant Ailish Hanna. Together, they offer a depth of knowledge across a wide range of legal areas, ensuring clients receive well-rounded, practical advice tailored to their individual circumstances.

Wakefields Lawyers is known for delivering comprehensive legal services, covering everything from property law, trusts and succession,



**ABOVE:** The team at Wakefields Lawyers in Ōtaki, from left, Ailish Hanna, Emma Henderson, Betsyn McHardy, Emma Baines, and Lisa Mabey.



**LEFT:** The welcoming reception area in Wakefields' new offices at 4 Arthur Street, Ōtaki, opposite the railway station.

and estates, to employment, family law, immigration, and corporate and commercial matters. The firm also has expertise in elder law, charities and not-for-profits, litigation, and rural law – making it a true full-service practice for individuals, families and businesses alike.

What sets Wakefields apart is its commitment to clear, straightforward communication. The team takes the time to understand each client's situation, offering guidance in plain English and focusing on solutions that are both practical and easy to follow. Whether navigating a major life decision or resolving a complex issue, clients can expect honest advice and genuine support every step of the way.

With five offices across the Kāpiti and Horowhenua region, Wakefields Lawyers has built a strong local presence since expanding from Wellington in 2018. That growth included taking over the well-respected Jim Simpson's Simco Lawyers practice, continuing a long-standing tradition of trusted legal service in the community.

For Ōtaki residents, expert legal help is now closer – and more accessible – than ever.




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# ŌTAKI

LOCAL BUSINESS

# Te Awahou comes to Ōtaki

**Ōtaki’s highway shopping precinct has a new face in the community, as Foxton-based funeral directors Te Awahou expand their reach.**

Leading the new office is Andrae Peipi, a veteran of the funeral profession with more than three decades of experience and a deep-seated commitment to personal, culture-led service.

Founded in 2017 by Jayden Moore and joined in 2023 by Marina Bates, Te Awahou has built a reputation for moving away from the “cookie-cutter” approach to funerals.

Andrae, a fully qualified funeral director, embalmer, and Justice of the Peace, says the decision to open an Ōtaki branch was a response to direct requests from local families seeking a more approachable, locally based alternative.

For Andrae, who has worked in New Plymouth, Wellington, and Palmerston North, the industry has shifted significantly from the rigid traditions of the past.

“Traditionally, funerals were very much what I call cookie-cutter services,” Andrae says. “Now, it’s far more personal. It’s about tailoring the farewell around each individual family.

“It might be placing a rugby ball on a casket instead of flowers – those distinct changes make a farewell more meaningful.”

With a background in te ao Māori, Andrae brings a unique perspective to a town where nearly 40 percent of the population identifies as Māori. However, his expertise spans a wide cultural spectrum, including experience with Greek Orthodox, Jewish, and Muslim traditions.

“I come as I am, regardless of my



Funeral director Andrae Peipi at Te Awahou’s offices in Ōtaki.

Photo Ōtaki Today

background,” he says. “I see a family as a blank canvas.

“It’s my responsibility to listen and build an idea of where they are coming from. This profession requires you to truly hear people; if you haven’t listened, your suggestions come across as cold.”

As a family-owned business, Te Awahou prides itself on being independent of large corporate conglomerates. Andrae says this allows the team to prioritize empathy over transactions or shareholder needs.

The new Ōtaki office operates with flexible

hours to accommodate the unpredictable nature of grief. While Andrae is a frequent fixture at the new offices between Dice and Coin Save, he encourages residents to call ahead or simply drop in if they see the lights on.

“We want people to feel they’re in control and at ease. It’s about meeting needs, not sales,” Andrae says. “At the end of the day, it’s about providing a space where families feel comfortable saying goodbye in their own way.”

■ Te Awahou Funeral Services, 200 Ōld Main Highway Ōtaki. 06 363 7404 [teawahoufunerals.co.nz](http://teawahoufunerals.co.nz)

BRIEFS

**Elite award for Pā Reo**

Pā Reo – part of Te Wānanga o Raukawa – is a certified Living Building Challenge Full Living project. It means the Pā Reo complex is one of just 38 buildings in the world – and only the second commercial building in New Zealand – to achieve the qualification. The set of buildings was designed by Tennent Brown Architects.

**Help with roof, salaries, events**

Ōtaki Playcentre has received \$3000 from NZ Community Trust for roof repairs. Ōtaki Golf Club also received \$20,000 for salaries in the latest funding round. Meanwhile, the Kāpiti Run for Youth has donated \$525 to Ōtaki College, which will help the student council run events.

**Blanket check**

Electra is joining Energise Ōtaki and Paul Pearce Electrical at the Ōtaki Repair Café on Sunday, June 7, offering to test electric blankets for free. Electric blankets can become damaged over time, causing short circuits, electric shocks, or even fires. The repair café is at the Memorial Hall, 10am-2pm.

**Brigade out 15 times**

There were 15 call-outs for Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade during April. Four were for private fire alarms, and three “good intent”. Two each were for: rubbish, grass or scrub fires; property; and medical emergency. The brigade attended one vehicle crash and there was one “special service”

# THE BIG EGG

## Ōtaki - we're turning 1!

Join us on the weekend of the 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> May  
as we celebrate and say thank you to our local  
community.

Prize packs and spot prizes to be won all weekend!  
We'd love to see you there.

A taste of the great outdoors!

# HUATAU/Opinion

HE TIROHANGA HOU: HENITI BUICK

## A privilege to be speaking at Anzac Day dawn service

**It was a privilege to speak at the Anzac Day dawn service this year. It was a peaceful morning and a beautiful set-up by the Ōtaki RSA.**

A huge mihi to president Trist Rēweti for all the work he put in, alongside everyone involved in bringing the service together.

This year also followed the recent change to the Anzac Day Amendment Act, which now recognises and commemorates all New Zealanders who have served our country, not only those who served in war. That is an important shift, and one that better reflects the many forms of service and sacrifice given by our people over time.

It also had me thinking about the spaces

we use in Ōtaki. Our halls, clubs, memorial spaces, parks, libraries, health spaces, and community facilities all play a role in how we connect, remember, celebrate, support each other, and deliver services. They are not just buildings – they are part of the fabric of our town.

Over the next couple of months, the council will begin longer-term planning conversations, and one of the questions we need to keep asking is whether our community spaces are still fit for purpose.

Are they meeting the needs of our growing and changing community? Are they accessible,



well used, and supporting the outcomes we want for Ōtaki?

I know there are also groups and organisations reaching out to understand whether funding will continue for certain activities and functions.

The reality is council spending needs to be carefully managed, and in some areas reduced. That is not an easy conversation when many groups are doing good work.

My approach will be to advocate strongly for the things that contribute widely to good outcomes for Ōtaki, while also being prudent with public money. We cannot fund everything, but we should be clear about what adds real

value, what supports our people, and what helps keep our community strong.

On the health front, our GP service at Oranga Ōtaki is continuing to get busier. Demand is growing, and we are working through what is needed to keep up. Part of that includes looking at how we expand into a space that can better accommodate the service, our team, and the whānau coming through the doors.

We still have enrolments open for people who do not currently have a GP, or who are unable to access their current GP within reasonable timeframes. Access to primary care is important, and we want to keep doing our bit to improve that locally.

■ *Heniti is the Ōtaki Ward councillor.*

CAM'S CORNER: CAM BUTLER

## Works – are we there yet?

**Are we there yet?**

YYYYEESSSSSS, well, mostly there. We now have a clear roundabout near BP. Hit sticks are gone, asphalted done and roadmarking in place to leave us with a clean, if

somewhat sterile, location. My personal disappointment was the removal of any trees or larger planting to soften the look.

**Roadworks still to go**

The revocation work down Old SH1 is going really well as all kerbing and footpath work is complete on the western/Mobil side. Work on the eastern side has now progressed north past RiverStone Cafe and heading towards Arthur Street. To come there is the kerbing work, final pedestrian crossing, installation of infrastructure for future Arthur Street traffic lights, and then asphalted from Hunting & Fishing to Bendon.

And then are we finished? Nope, but the revocation works are.

Mill Road still has a fair bit of work to go with final connections and testing to ensure a good product. This work still to go has led to the resealing works being put back to next sealing season. So Mill Road and Aotaki Street will both be resealed in October/November. Works on Mill Road in the meantime have been promised so improve the bumpiness left behind.

**The wastewater pipe part 2**

The wastewater pipe is not finished, unfortunately, as it still needs to travel along Rāhui Road to Freemans Road and also up Te Roto Road. Firstly it goes under the



expressway, which will be quite an exercise, and then County Road before Rāhui Road. At this stage no definite traffic plan has been published, nor who the contractor will be doing the work. So TBA.

**Tagging, ugh!**

There appears to be a small spate of tagging around the rohē just recently, and some of it attacking someone personally. I don't know exactly what a tagger gets out of making something look ugly with their tag, however it certainly make me think less of them. It makes Ōtaki look less beautiful and that is disappointing. If by chance you know someone who is tagging in the area, maybe you could give them the feedback that the community does not appreciate their efforts.

**Anzac Day**

Another great service led by the Ōtaki RSA with a large crowd standing in the cold dawn to honour those that didn't come home from Gallipoli and other theatres of war, and everyone else who has served their country. I was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the Ōtaki Community Board. We helped the RSA to purchase more speakers so those along Main Street could hear better. We hope the service was relayed to all who came along.

- *The next Ōtaki Community Board meeting is 7pm Tuesday, June 2, at the Gertrude Atmore room, next to the library.*
  - *Like Ōtaki Community Board on Facebook.*
- *Cam is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board.*

EYE ON WAIKANAĒ: MICHAEL MOORE

## Protecting our coastal environment

**Kāpiti's unique coastal environment is a treasure we all share, and protecting it is essential to ensure it remains a place where locals and visitors alike can relax, explore, and enjoy.**

At Te Horo Beach in particular, the sensitive ecology of Mangaone Lagoon, and surrounding wetland, near the corner of Te Horo Beach Road and Rodney Avenue has long been an area of concern.

We have always encouraged people – not just visitors but locals, too – to not use the northern entry with vehicles. Access to the beach is via the southern track entrance off Rodney Avenue. This helps protect fragile ecosystems from damage and keeps the area safe for everyone.

Two years ago we created a stunning mural around the wharepaku toilets and changerooms, and it wasn't just to make that area look nice, but to educate us all about the unique wildlife there. The rare and endangered dotterel breeds in this area. Dogs off-leash and vehicles seriously endanger these areas, including the Waikanae Estuary, which has scientific reserve status.

Respecting our coastal environment is crucial, especially where public spaces invite us to connect with nature. Our children play, families picnic, and friends gather on these beaches and tracks. When we stick to the designated paths and access points, we reduce erosion, protect native plants and wildlife, and maintain the natural beauty that makes Kāpiti so special.

If we want these spaces to be here for generations to come, it's on all of us to treat them with care and consideration.



We are installing signage at the corner of Rodney Avenue and Te Horo Beach Road to direct and encourage drivers to the car park, beach access, picnic area and toilets/ beach shower, just along to the Sea Road entrance.

On a different note, many residents have been frustrated at the ongoing construction on the Old State Highway 1 between Peka Peka and Waikanae. This project involves building a new roundabout that will serve as the entrance to a large residential development just north of Waikanae.

While the development promises growth and new housing, the current traffic management, including automated traffic lights, has caused significant disruptions. The traffic signals currently in use have not been adjusting effectively to the real-time flow of vehicles in each direction. Many locals have expressed their upset over the long delays and unpredictable wait times during busy periods, especially that this is a substantial worksite.

These issues highlight the challenge of balancing infrastructure development with daily community needs. I'm hoping improvements to traffic light responsiveness and the completion of the roundabout will ease congestion soon, but you need to be prepared for disruption on this road until late May, early June.

Thank you for your continued care and community spirit.

- *You can follow my regular updates on Facebook: [tinyurl.com/mike.moore.kc](https://www.facebook.com/mike.moore.kc)*
  - *The next meeting of the Community Board is 6.30pm Tuesday, June 23, at Waikanae Community Centre, 28 Utauta Street*
- *Michael is a member of the Waikanae Community Board.*

THE ELECTORATE: TIM COSTLEY

## Consistent service boundaries if my biscuit tin idea becomes law

**Ōtaki is the reason I'm doing this; it will be a win for our town.**

Every MP gets to suggest one idea for a new policy or new law, and then these ideas get drawn out of an old biscuit tin (literally) to see which go forward.

Last Thursday my bill to support Ōtaki was drawn out and now has the chance to become law.

I've been frustrated for six years that towns like Ōtaki can slip through the cracks when it comes to support from government agencies. The problem is that every agency picks their own regional boundaries. They overlap, creating a web of confusion and inefficiency, and families in our town suffer.

One Ōtaki-based leukaemia patient told me he gets excellent care at Wellington Hospital, but because of the boundaries, if he needs an ambulance to hospital it will only take him to Palmerston North.

Ōtaki and Te Horo schools are part of the Kāpiti education area, but when the principals' group meet with agencies like Oranga Tamariki, they meet the wrong people – Ōtaki schools are supported out of Levin, not Paraparaumu.

Boundaries for courts, Corrections and police are inconsistent. Ōtaki police are supported from Levin, but in a civil defence emergency Ōtaki is part of Kāpiti.



But when the Kāpiti emergency group meet, the Kapiti police there don't cover Ōtaki.

If you need social housing you would go to Porirua to see Kāinga Ora, but they would tell you to first go to MSD.

The building next door? No. The office in Paraparaumu? No. You need to go to the Levin office first.

And of course different council and regional councils means there is effectively no public transport to get between Levin and Ōtaki.

None of this makes sense.

If every agency used the same boundaries, and they aligned with the council boundaries

(as a general rule with the odd exception around New Zealand), then if you live in Ōtaki, you'd always be part of Kāpiti no matter what support you need, and all your support would come from the same place.

You could go to one hub and get the same support as everyone else. Staff there would consistently work with each other and not overlapping areas so they could give you better support, too.

That's the problem my idea for a new law will solve. Every agency will have five years to move to the same boundaries.

I'm doing this entirely because of the families I've met and helped in Ōtaki, and I'm proud to be supporting our region first and foremost.

■ *Tim is the Ōtaki electorate MP.*

# The way the world seems, or the way it is?

**ADMIT to a reflexive reaction when I hear politicians attack, or even minimise, the importance of science, history and the arts.**

Even if coming from people who have built power or wealth for themselves, from say technology and knowledge, they'd rather the rest of us wallow in ignorance.

One could endlessly speculate about why this happens, but a reason is likely to be about maintaining power, when that power relies on the compliance of enough voters. In the US, where ignorance-virtuising is a political artform, it's coupled with

**JUST A THOUGHT**



FRASER CARSON

fearmongering about all manner of things, simply to win improbable votes.

Consider this. How could so many people cast a vote for Donald Trump when he represents everything they are not – rich, privileged and narcissistic? The answer is that he told them to fear the dark – if you can't see the truth, substitute it with scary things like rapist immigrants, Muslim terrorists and smart-arse medical experts.

Then he told them he was the only one who could protect them. Vote for me.

It's a method that's made it easier for people like Trump to replace facts with fiction. For example, apparently drinking bleach might cure Covid, or the 2020 election that defeated Trump was rigged.



Pixabay image

To believe any of this, an understanding of Plato is not required, nor even much ability to think for oneself.

But then I'm also reminded that a big part of this populist appeal is the ridicule of those with the most knowledge who are likely to be poncey university graduates ensconced in some elite palace.

The trouble now is that the realities of someone like Trump eventually emerge. He has so clearly hoodwinked many voters with imagined threats, stories about ruling elites and his superior cognitive abilities, but many

now realise they should actually be grasping his management of the economy, his war with Iran and his rampant corruption, that they should do something about it.

In a recent podcast interview with Katie Couric, historian Timothy Snyder answered a question about the current state of the world.

*Couric: "What are you most concerned about?"*

*Snyder: I'm not somebody who worries.*

*Couric: Seriously?*

*Snyder: I'm somebody who tried to note the kind of things that can happen.*

*So, on tyranny, it's about the kind of things that*

*How could so many people cast a vote for Donald Trump when he represents everything they are not – rich, privileged and narcissistic? The answer is that he told them to fear the dark – if you can't see the truth, substitute it with scary things like rapist immigrants, Muslim terrorists and smart-arse medical experts.*

have happened in history.

*The reason why history is so important is that you know what happened in the past. That gives you an advantage over all those people in the past and you've got to use that advantage.*

Snyder was essentially saying that worrying in a vacuum is not the best option. Understand history and one can see what's likely to happen and have the tools to do something about it.

I believe the arts and artists are another source of wisdom in these matters. Who would have known that rock musician John Mayer – the guitarist's guitar player – could say this:

*"There's the way it is and there's the way it seems. And I'm willing to bet that 99 percent of your problems are based on the way it all seems."*

The way the world seems, at the moment, is a big worry to many people. But the kind of ignorance that spawns things like global warming denial and undermines democracy, is not a pathway out of this mess.

As John Mayer would say: "It's not the way it seems."

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

## Ōtaki to north of Levin: Te Pae o Tararua Project information centres now open

Construction is now well underway on the new expressway. You'll notice increased activity across the area as the team work to create a safer, more resilient and more efficient State Highway 1.

Our two project information centres are now open, and we welcome you to come in, chat to some of the team and learn more about the expressway and what it will mean for you and your community.

**Locations:**

**Ōtaki**

82 State Highway 1  
Te Huanui o Tararua

**Levin**

235 Tararua Road  
Te Mātahi o Tararua

**Opening hours**

We'll be open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (closed on public holidays).

You can also continue to get in touch with the project team by emailing [info@o2nl.nz](mailto:info@o2nl.nz) or call **0508 625 4636**



Ōtaki information centre

# MAHI MĀRA/Gardening



## MYSTERIOUS MOLLUSCS

ABOVE: The leftovers after thrushes have had a good feed on garden snails.

Photo Kath Irvine, Edible Gardens

### FOR THE LONGEST TIME slugs and snails perplexed me.

Having tried all the tricks and found them wanting, I relied on Quash (iron and bran) the most natural, cost-effective bait I could find), and night hunts. Head torch on and bucket of limey water into which the molluscs go to fizz. Such a lot of admin!

I wanted to leave the bulk of slug control to nature, and stop with the Quash. So, I set-to to learn about molluscs.

Turns out they have loads of predators, and the particular form of iron in Quash is damaging to many of them.

#### Predators

Many of the familiar predators – frogs, hedgehogs, thrushes, blackbirds, and starlings – are generalist eaters that help our cause, but aren't enough considering the sheer volume of molluscs in a garden. Add mice and harvestman to the list – surprising, but true. And let's not

forget ducks, but not everyone wants, or can have ducks.

Cannibalistic slugs and snails surprised me, and added another argument against slug bait. Those freaky large leopard slugs look like they could eat a whole cabbage, but they eat slugs!

However the great hunters of the day are tiny nematodes and mites that feed on molluscs, and ground beetles that straight-up eat either slugs or snails, or both.

Beetles need long grass, living mulch, compost or a generous mulchy leaf litter to live in. And here we get to the heart of the matter – where is the deep leaf litter? Gone, because it supposedly harbours slugs. Gone with the leaf blower and rake and off to the tip because it's messy.

This ancient, essential habitat and nutrient

#### EDIBLE GARDEN



KATH IRVINE

cycling space has been tidied away. We've mistaken the outside for the inside. Vacuum the floor – yes, please, but let's stop vacuuming the ground.

#### Myth busting

Fresh plant matter makes up only a small portion of most molluscs' diet. They prefer vegetation that's on the decay, seeped in fungi. Apart from the grey slugs, that is, who are fresh-shoot gobbling monsters.

Or are they? Does the same apply to grey slugs as for aphids – overfed plants that run with simple carbohydrates are the ones that get eaten?

Most slug and snail strategies have paved the way for molluscs to rule unthreatened. Remove the mulch and save the day! Perhaps not, when the mulch itself is dinner for snails, and home to

their predators.

#### Natural solutions

This much I know: the less I "feed" my soil and the more complex my living mulches become, the less slug and snail damage I observe, even though there are slugs and snails about. Balance in nature isn't about fewer pests, rather it's more predators. Pests equalise where there is more diversity, and more life.

Be on the job in spring when populations rise, and go on a few evening hunts. Plant larger seedlings, set beer traps if you must, but let's lay off the bait.

Leave leaf litter, let grass grow, keep mulching but most importantly, stop being afraid of life – celebrate it!

■ 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.



Numerous plans available with single and double garages etc.

We also offer "Design and Build options" - it doesn't have to be one of our standard plans.

## ŌTAKI GARDENS

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# PUTAIO/Science

## Ghostly military murmers defy physics

**IN APRIL, the *New York Post* ran a dramatic story about President Trump’s White House briefing under the headline: “The secret, never-before-used CIA tool that helped find airman downed in Iran: If your heart is beating, we will find you.”**

During the briefing, Trump told reporters the CIA had located the downed airman from “40 miles away,” and CIA Director John Ratcliffe



**DR STEVE HUMPHRIES**

added that they had used “exquisite technologies that no other intelligence service in the world possesses”.

According to the *Post*’s sources, the futuristic technology – referred to as “Ghost Murmur” – was developed within Lockheed Martin’s secretive Skunk Works division and supposedly uses long-range quantum magnetometry to detect human heartbeats, paired with artificial-intelligence software to extract that signal from ambient noise.

Online newspapers, blogs, and YouTube channels rushed to promote the story, and a Google search for “Ghost Murmur” produces – prominently, in the prime space at the top of the results – an AI overview that reinforces

the narrative by asserting that “the CIA’s Ghost Murmur technology is a groundbreaking tool” able to “pinpoint a person up to 40 miles away”.

The problem is that these claims are not supported by the science. While the Ghost Murmur story is undeniably compelling, the prestigious popular-science magazine *Scientific American* challenges the narrative, citing leading physicists who study magnetic fields. Measuring the heart’s magnetic field (magnetocardiography) is a legitimate and promising area of research, but magnetic field strength drops off so sharply with distance that it can be detected only at close range under controlled conditions – nowhere near the vast distances claimed for Ghost Murmur.

The drop-off in magnetic field strength is dramatic; a fridge magnet can hold one sheet of paper, but add a second and it slips – even that tiny extra distance weakens the force tremendously.

Physics is the science that uncovers the mathematical structure of the natural world and expresses it in precise, predictive relationships, and by looking at the numbers we can see why scientists are confident that Ghost Murmur technology is not physically possible.

At a distance of one centimetre the heart’s magnetic field is roughly 100 picotesla – less than a millionth of Earth’s magnetic field – yet still detectable with modern magnetocardiography sensors. But that signal collapses brutally with the inverse-cube law: every time you move 10 times farther away, it becomes a thousand times weaker. By the time

you reach one kilometre (let alone 40 miles), the field is about a quadrillion times weaker than it was at one centimetre. That’s more than a billion times weaker than the sensitivity of our best sensors.

More importantly, that magnetic signal is more than a trillion times weaker than the background magnetic noise of the Earth – and even weaker than the random thermal jitter of electrons inside the measuring circuitry itself. The signal isn’t just faint; it is so deeply buried in noise it’s physically unrecoverable.

No amount of tinkering in a secret laboratory can fix that. It’s not an engineering problem that can be solved with a better sensor, or smarter AI. It’s a fundamental consequence of physics, information theory, and signal-detection limits.

So how did the Ghost Murmur story take hold? The *New York Post*, known for its tabloid style and appetite for sensational framing, played a central role. During the White House briefing itself, there was no mention of anything called “Ghost Murmur”. In reality, there is nothing mysterious about how the pilot was located: he activated his standard-issue Combat Survivor Evader Locator (CSEL), an encrypted, frequency-hopping, military-grade GPS beacon linked to US satellites and accurate to within a few meters. And Trump’s reference to detecting the pilot from 40 miles away could just as easily refer to ordinary, well-established remote-sensing technologies such as thermal imaging.

The entire “Ghost Murmur” label originates from two anonymous individuals quoted only

by the *New York Post*. They were not named, not identified as officials, and not described with any expertise. In short, the term rests solely on unverified, unattributed claims rather than any authoritative source.

Once published, the story was rapidly echoed across blogs, YouTube channels, and social media accounts that prioritise drama and novelty over verification. Repetition gives the illusion of legitimacy: the more often a phrase like “Ghost Murmur” appears online, the more it feels like an established piece of military technology, even when no evidence supports it.

Google’s AI-generated summaries (AI Overviews) then absorb this repeated material from publicly crawlable web pages. Their design is to confidently restate what is most consistently asserted online – not to assess whether those assertions are credible. The result is algorithmic amplification of popular-appeal pseudoscience.

The web ecosystem rewards a dramatic story over an accurate one, and at every stage of the Ghost Murmur narrative, someone benefits from the drama: a tabloid earns clicks for a sensational headline, and secondary sites earn clicks for repeating it.

The Ghost Murmur episode is yet another reminder to scrutinise our sources of information, especially online where a claim can outrun the facts.

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

### RATE INSTALMENT FOUR – 2025/26 Reminder of date dates – 9 June 2026

Kāpiti Coast District ratepayers are reminded that rate instalment four is due on 9 June 2026. Any portion of the current instalment unpaid after 9 June 2026 will incur a 10% penalty, which will be shown on your next rate invoice.

#### Direct Debit payments

Can be arranged on a weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly basis. To minimise the risk of future penalties, we recommend payment of rate instalments by direct debit. Forms are available at the front counters of the Civic Building in Paraparaumu, the Waikanae service centre, the Ōtaki service centre and at [www.kapiticoast.govt.nz](http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz)

#### Rate Payment at Council Agencies

You can also make rate payments at a New Zealand Post agency. Simply present the bar-coded rate invoice with your payment.

#### Credit Card Payment

This service is provided by our bank, Westpac New Zealand Limited, through [www.kapiticoast.govt.nz](http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz). You don’t have to be a Westpac customer to use this service. The current convenience fee is displayed on the credit card payment screen before any payment information is requested.

#### Rates Rebates 2025/26

If you had a low income as at 31 March 2025 you might qualify for a rates rebate for the 2025/26 rates under a scheme run by the Department of Internal Affairs. Get your application form from a Council service centre or [www.kapiticoast.govt.nz](http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz). Applications close 30 June 2026.

#### Get your rates invoices emailed to you and be in to win a \$350 rates credit!

Email us at [emailrates@kapiticoast.govt.nz](mailto:emailrates@kapiticoast.govt.nz) with your property information and email address to be in the draw. Elect to pay by direct debit too and the rates credit you could win increases to \$500!

Darren Edwards, Chief Executive



## RATING INFORMATION DATABASE 2026/27

Pursuant to the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 the Kāpiti Coast District Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council (GW) give notice that the 2026/27 Rating Information Database for the Kāpiti Coast District is available for inspection.

The database lists each property’s rateable value, location, legal description, land area and indicative 2026/27 rates.

The Rating Information Database is available for inspection Monday to Friday at the following offices:

<b>Paraparaumu Civic Building</b>	175 Rimu Road, 9am – 5pm
<b>Ōtaki Service Centre</b>	81-83 Main St, 9am – 5pm
<b>Waikanae Service Centre</b>	Mahara Place, 9am – 5pm
<b>Masterton (GWRC)</b>	34 Chapel St, 8am – 4.30pm
<b>Wellington (GWRC)</b>	100 Cuba St, Te Aro, 8am – 4.30pm

Staff will assist with requests for information. Property information is also available at [www.kapiticoast.govt.nz](http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz)

Darren Edwards  
Chief Executive, Kāpiti Coast District Council



# Elections – time for a party?

**WE ALL** find ourselves doing it – sitting around having a yarn and solving the world’s problems.

So how do you take the next step and put your theories into practice by standing for parliament? The General Election is Saturday, November 7, so now’s the time to find out (or at least make sure you’re registered to vote!)

First, to stand as a candidate you must be a NZ citizen and you must be eligible to vote in NZ.

You could choose to join one the country’s 13 (as at May 2) registered political parties and work towards being chosen as a list or electorate MP. Seventeen parties contested the 2023 election. Being a registered political party means the party can contest the party vote, have their logo on voting papers and access broadcasting funds. Anyone can join a party, even if they’re not eligible to vote, although parties usually have rules that mean you can be a member of only one party at a time.

You could stand as an independent electorate MP, unaffiliated with any party. As you’re not associated with a party, you need to be nominated by two people eligible to vote in the electorate you want to stand in. Registering as an electorate candidate requires a \$300 deposit (whether you’re a party member or independent) and any eligible person can contest any electorate, irrespective of where they’re enrolled. So you can live in the Kāpiti electorate but stand in the Palmerston North electorate. You can stand in a general electorate or a Māori electorate, irrespective of your ethnicity.

## CITIZENS ADVICE



MARIA FYVIE

Or you and your friends could start your own political party. If you decide to run only electorate candidates you don’t need to register your party. In 2023, 56 candidates stood independently or for an unregistered party in an electorate seat. You do need to provide proof the party exists and that you have been selected as their representative.

If you want to contest the party vote you need to register your party. To do this you need to provide:

- a suitable name
- evidence of 500 paying members who can enrol to vote
- party rules
- an auditor.

Once your application has been lodged and you’ve paid a \$500 application fee, the Electoral Commission will ask the public whether they have any issues with your name or logo before registering your party. Registering a list of candidates for election requires a \$1000 deposit. Registration with the commission needs to be complete by August 6, 2026, and it’s recommended registrations are lodged by June 11, 2026.

To find out more about registering to vote or running for parliament, see our volunteers at 65a Main Street 10am-1pm Monday-Friday, call us on 06 364 8664 or go to CAB.org.nz and search ‘run for parliament’ in the Ask Us box. Also, elections.nz has extensive information.

■ Maria is secretary of Kāpiti CAB



# A summit challenge

**IN MARCH** I did something a bit out of the ordinary. I signed up for the Summit Challenge.

The challenge is a fundraising event run by the Himalayan Trust (Sir Edmund Hillary’s organisation), which gets people committed to climbing the vertical equivalent of Everest Base Camp during the month.

I walked the hills around Wellington – 5364 metres. On foot. In March. In Wellington weather.

By March 31, the number of metres finished at 6517 – and I’m delighted to say \$1868 was raised for the trust’s work in education and healthcare in remote Nepalese communities. It was a top 10 finish on the national fundraising leaderboard, which I’m quietly proud of.

## What I took from the month

It wasn’t one big effort that did it. It was consistency. Getting up, heading out, and climbing – again and again. Some days ideal conditions. Some days Wellington reminding me who’s in charge.

But continuing regardless. The metres added up. I kept coming back to a line I’d written on day 1, standing at the top of Mt Kaukau:

## YOUR BUSINESS



CHRIS WHELAN

“Consistency compounds.” It’s a principle I talk about with clients. Turns out the hills are a pretty good classroom for it.

## A genuine thank you

If you were one of those who donated to this challenge, thank you. Sincerely.

Every contribution helped. Not just the number on the fundraising page, but the momentum of knowing people were following along and backing the cause.

The Himalayan Trust does remarkable work. If you’d like to learn more about what your support makes possible, visit [himalayantrust.org](http://himalayantrust.org).

## One thought to take away

Where in your business are you waiting for the big push – the strategy day, the right hire, the right moment – when what’s actually needed is just showing up consistently to the thing that matters? The answer is usually quieter than we expect it to be.

■ Chris is a business and leadership coach based in the Wellington region. For more, visit [chriswhelancoaching.com](http://chriswhelancoaching.com)

## Welcome Lee!

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

# Rural gym with community spirit

**I**N THE RURAL BACK-BLOCKS of Hautere, down a quiet country road surrounded by paddocks and lifestyle properties, a small community gym is quietly building something bigger than fitness.

River Rock Health and Fitness is run by husband-and-wife team Pete and Laura Rowe, who opened the gym in late 2020 after coming to New Zealand from Australia.

What began as a simple personal training setup inside a shipping container during the Covid lockdowns has steadily grown into a thriving community fitness hub attracting everyone from young mums to retirees in their 80s.

“We didn’t have any clients to begin with,” Pete says. “It was during lockdown and we thought, if we get a couple of clients, awesome. Now we’re still going and realising we need a bit more space.”

The couple moved to the Kāpiti Coast after spending nearly a decade in Australia. Pete, originally from Queensland, worked as a plumber while Laura, who grew up in Kāpiti, built a career as an emergency nurse.

The pair bought their Hautere property while still living in Australia, intending to eventually settle there with their three daughters.

They gained health and fitness qualifications and started by running personal training sessions from a single container gym before deciding to trial group fitness classes.

“We launched the group classes in November 2020 and it just grew from there,” he says.

Today River Rock runs classes six days a week, with sessions at 6am, mid-morning and evenings. Class sizes range from about five to 15 people, with a mix of strength training, conditioning and Hyrox fitness sessions.

River Rock also offers a new recovery room, boasting a cold plunge, sauna, compression therapy, and red light therapy face masks.

Pete says the business’s success has little to do with trendy fitness culture or intimidating gym environments.

“We really try and sell it on the community side of things,” he says. “Our motto is ‘just turn up and do what you can do’. It’s consistency over intensity.”

That philosophy appears to resonate strongly with the rural locals, many of whom have never



Laura and Pete Rowe at their River Rock Health and Fitness gym at Hautere.

Photo Ōtaki Today

stepped inside a gym before.

“I reckon 90 percent of our group have never done anything like this. The hardest thing is just turning up the first time.”

Rather than focusing on bodybuilding or elite athletic performance, the gym caters for everyday people wanting to stay active and healthy.

Laura’s nursing skills give her important insights that allow her to offer valuable advice for clients.

“The nursing background helps me to better understand what some people are dealing with, and how to adapt things for them safely.”

She also coaches classes, runs personal

training sessions and leads a popular mums-and-bubs group for women returning to exercise after pregnancy.

The couple say flexibility is central to how they operate. There are no long-term contracts, people can pause memberships when needed, and parents are encouraged to bring children along to classes.

The relaxed atmosphere is a deliberate contrast to what many people associate with gyms.

“We always said we’d never be that mirror-and-bodybuilding sort of place,” Laura says. “People come here for the community, not the space.”

That sense of belonging has become one of the gym’s strongest drawcards, with friendships forming well beyond workout sessions.

“We always joke we’d have no friends if we didn’t have the gym,” she says. “People have built relationships outside of here now.”

The Rowes are already planning their next expansion – a new 110-square-metre pole shed gym they hope to complete by the end of the year. And they’re adamant any growth won’t stop River Rock from offering the personal touch for which they’ve become well known.

“We like keeping it boutique,” Pete says.

■ See [riverrockhealth.com](http://riverrockhealth.com)



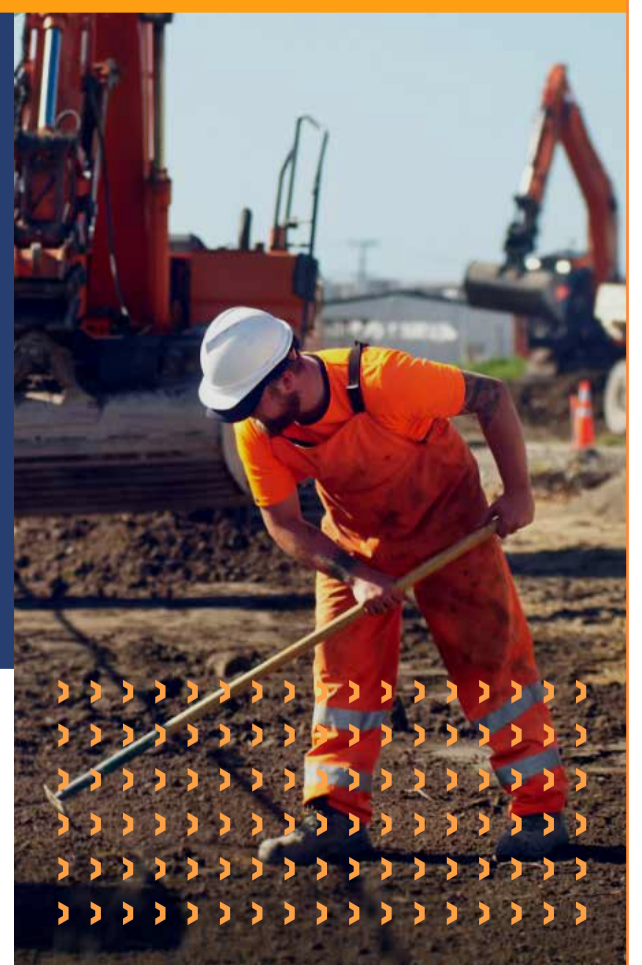
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# HĪTORIA/History

## Precocious river our ‘problem child’

**I**N A YEAR of an unprecedented number of severe climate events, it’s been easy for those of us on the west coast of the motu to feel somewhat complacent.

Up until very recently, most of the carnage has been felt by those on the east side.

But historically Ōtaki has also had to reckon with the forces of nature – particularly the force

of our river.

Being the biggest catchment area in the western Tararua Range, the Ōtaki River is one of the largest by volume flowing from Tararua Forest Park. It’s a braided river, which explains its tendency to change course frequently, and also its long



**NICKY TREADWELL**

history of moving across the floodplain the town has been built on.

Between 1920 and 1940 there were many notable floods. One, in 1931, claimed the life of Ann Falder as she attempted to leave a Rāhui Road farm where she had been staying. Farms and settlements on the floodplain were damaged, bridges and stopbanks were washed away, and railway lines washed out, despite previous attempts at controlling the river.

So further work to control the river flow and levels continued. More and higher stopbanks and groynes were constructed by the various local authorities who were tasked with this during the late 1930s and early 1940s.

Eventually, one very big works programme was initiated in 1941, and in 1945 a huge piece of machinery was imported from the United States.

The Tower Dredge, as it was called, was mounted on railway tracks that ran alongside the river. It had a vertical tower of about 38 metres, weighed in at more than 200 tonnes and incorporated three dragline buckets that could each hold up to 9 cubic metres of gravel and sand.



The huge Tower Dredge at work on the Ōtaki River in 1946. The image is from a video held by Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision. To view, search “Ōtaki Dragline” at [ngataonga.org.nz](http://ngataonga.org.nz)

Beginning at the road and railway bridges, the dredge scooped out the gravel from the river, depositing it on the northern side. These deposits were later formed into stopbanks. By 1947, about 50,000 cubic metres of gravel had been removed, lowering the depth of the river by nearly two metres.

The river’s 550m braided form was obliterated, leaving a straightened channel about 300m wide. This grandiose scheme, however, still proved ineffective in controlling the awa.

When the then Manawātū Catchment Board (MCB) took over management of the river from the Public Works Department in 1948, control works were extended up the Ōtaki Gorge, but this time there was no attempt at confining the river into a channel.

The “deeping” of the river – where gravel had been extracted – had proved detrimental to the protection works, and reductions in the amount of commercial extraction were recommended.

From 1950, New Zealand Railways and Golden Bay Cement were the major extractors

of gravel. Railways used the hard, larger gravel for rail track ballast while the concrete manufacturer took smaller sized gravel and sand.

By the 1970s, extraction was well over the amount of natural bedrock being deposited. And given the two companies didn’t contribute to the river control scheme in any financial way, the government and local bodies determined that grants towards the scheme should be reduced until both those issues could be resolved.

By the 1980s, Golden Bay Cement was still extracting gravel, but at a much reduced amount, and the Railways were sourcing gravel from land-based operations further afield.

Meantime, problems remained with the construction standard of the stopbanks formed by the Tower Dredge, as well concerns about the confinement of the river through the channeling that occurred. In the 1987 issue of the Ōtaki Historical Journal, Neil McLennan, a planning officer for the MCB, noted the following:

“Compared with many other Manawātū and

Horowhenua river systems, the Ōtaki River is a problem child. With a high rainfall catchment in the Tararua Range, a history of flooding, intensive development in the lower reaches, a confined ‘man-made’ channel, and a steep slope; the river is a liability as well as a major water, gravel and recreational asset.”

The local government reforms of 1989 saw a major shift in the administration and management of the river. Responsibility for the Ōtaki and Waikanae rivers was taken over by the regional council and a new approach to decision making saw the involvement of the community. The Kāpiti Floodplain Management Committee evolved from this approach, resulting in management plans for rivers that were acceptable to the communities through which they flowed.

An important part of the new system was recognition that the previous attempts to control the rivers didn’t work. The efforts to channel the Ōtaki River, in particular, involved flood protection works that were overly complicated and expensive, as well as ultimately ineffective.

Rather than focusing on control of the river itself, a wider approach focused on the entire floodplain, and included future land use and planning, allowing the river to be unconstrained, apart from new areas of planting and the reduction of stopbanks. It was considered that these measures would be more effective in the case of a 1 in 100 year flood event.

This new inclusive approach saw the birth of the Friends of the Ōtaki River (Fotor) in 1999, whose work continues today. For 25 years Fotor has been the driving force behind the river’s enhancement – both in environmental health and amenity.

This approach is one of respect – for the river as a taonga of our town, and the recognition that it is part of a much wider system. It isn’t about control or resistance.

Perhaps the latest buzz words “resilience” and “risk aversion” are more appropriate, and through this, hopefully, we will avoid the threat of “retreat” or “relocation”.

■ Nicky is a former journalist with an interest in local history.



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## ŌTAKI CONVENT SCHOOL



**ŌTAKI CONVENT SCHOOL: Class of 1921**

Plenty of well known local names in this group of school children. Back row from left: J Knox, Fred Tram?, Claude Watson, Guy Cleland, Peter Wilson.

Row 3: Ginny Gordon, Bonny Hakaraia, Emily King, unknown, Josephine Taratoa, Gladys Smith.

Row 2: Lulu Tranter, unknown, Dorothy Watson, Dola Harper, Thelma Fogden, Rita Nicholson.

Front: Martin Winterburn, John Huff, Micky Gordon, Francis Winterburn, Scobie Thompson.

*Photo courtesy of Irene Mackle*

### GOT OLD PHOTOS?

If you have old school photos – or any photos of old Ōtaki – please get in touch. We're building our archive so we can keep publishing snapshots of life when the town and district were younger.

Email us, including names and other information if you can. Contact [debbi@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:debbi@idmedia.co.nz) with additions or corrections to captions.

ŌTAKI MAIL – WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 1926.

### NEED FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Among the needs of Ōtaki at the present time is that of the early establishment of a District High School at Ōtaki. To some people it may seem that the time is not yet ripe. But there is no time like the present. The time has come when a move should be made in the matter. The question was brought up at the last meeting of the Ōtaki State School committee. It is held over, however, pending the result of enquiries to be made. It is hoped that the result of the enquiries will mean that the school may be established. There are many reasons why there should be a District High School at Ōtaki. The present train service does not by any means assist the pupils who at present have to attend the Levin school, to be in a proper frame of mind to receive lessons when they get there, or to do homework when they get home. Instances of pupils attending Levin have been given where children have had to get up in time to leave home at 5.10am. This was to catch the train which leaves Ōtaki at 7.27am, (and of course stations prior to that at earlier times). It seems to us that even if a District High School were established at Ōtaki a rearrangement of the train services for the children will also be necessary. Either that or private enterprise (ever ready to seize the opportunity to counter the railways) will take the matter up. The evening trains are no better than the morning ones, for convenience to the travelling school children. Instances are given where some children do not reach home until 7pm. It means too long a day, and too big a strain for any growing boy or girl. The child cannot possibly concentrate or efficiently perform his or her work either at school or at home. And the cases quoted are not isolated ones; for the district down the line from Ōtaki is a large, closely populated, and growing area, which will insistently demand more and more from its children the need for larger schools, and better facilities for getting here. Another argument in favour of the matter of a new District High School at Ōtaki, is the fact that the Levin District School is absolutely crowded out. Children are being taught in all sorts of buildings, scattered over the town. If a new school were started at Ōtaki it would considerably ease the present crowding and congestion. We wish the local school committee every success in their enquiries, and trust that the undertaking may soon be on the way.

*(Note that it took another 33 years to happen – Ōtaki District High School, later Ōtaki College, opened in 1959. – Editor)*

FROM NGĀ TAONGA SOUND & VISION ARCHIVES

## Soldiers' exploits recorded

When Sergeant Haane Manahi (Te Arawa, Ngāti Raukawa) led a small group of Second World War soldiers on an "impossible" mission at Takrouna in Tunisia, the New Zealand Broadcasting Unit (NZBU) was there to share their triumphs and losses with the world.

Sound history researcher Sarah Johnston, who has spent years studying recordings made by NZBU mobile units and preserved by Ngā Taonga, has written an in-depth account of the soldiers, and the journalists who followed them to battle.

The National Broadcasting Service had used disc recordings since the mid-1930s, but this was the first time Kiwi broadcasters accompanied New Zealand troops abroad. The original lacquer discs of the mobile units' wartime recordings were digitised by Ngā Taonga, which continues to care for them. They were inscribed to the Unesco Memory of the World Register in 2019, recognised as being of significant international documentary heritage.

Sarah's deeply researched story is brought to life with wartime radio broadcasts and recordings from the front, as well as archival and family photographs of some of the people involved.

*How news of Takrouna, and Sgt. Haane Manahi, made it home* can be read online at [ngataonga.org.nz](http://ngataonga.org.nz). Other Second World War NZBU recordings are also available online – search reference "U Series".

Sergeant Manahi is the subject of the film *Sgt. Haane*, which is in cinemas now.



**Haane Manahi.** Photo by George Bull, Maadi, Egypt, c. June 10, 1943 Ref: DA-04139. Alexander Turnbull Library.



**NZBU correspondent Arch Curry** watches a burning vehicle at El Alamein, Egypt. Photo by H Paton, c. July 9, 1942. Ref: DA-06752-F. Alexander Turnbull Library.



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otakiheritage.org.nz



Ōtaki from the air in 1947, with the fire station and Raukawa Marae in the foreground. Photo: White's Aviation.

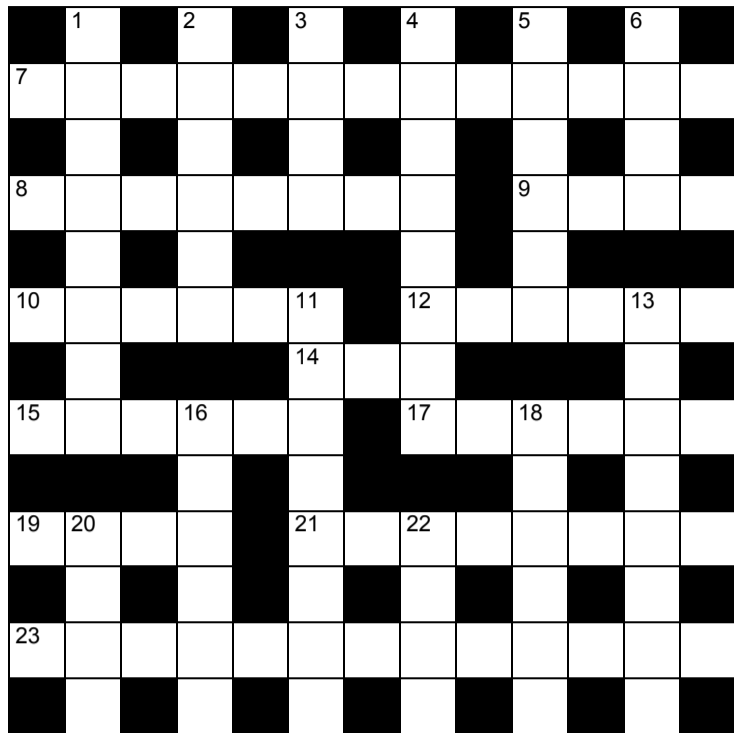
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TE HAUTAKA AROMUA O ŌTAKI  
ŌTAKI HISTORICAL JOURNAL

PIUTANGA | VOLUME 46: 2025

THE CROSSWORD #NZ1959K (answers below)




ACROSS

- 7. An avocado, in other words (9,4)
- 8. Collect discarded material (8)
- 9. Frosted (4)
- 10. Mountain where Noah's Ark landed (6)
- 12. Baby toy (6)
- 14. Australian marsupial (abbr) (3)
- 15. Christchurch rapper with hit *Not Many* (6)
- 17. Dairy brand sold by Fonterra in 2025 as part of a \$4b deal (6)
- 19. Cry noisily (inf) (4)
- 21. Worked up (8)
- 23. Now outdated term for human induced climate change (6,7)

DOWN

- 1. Plug-in mode of transport (8)
- 2. Element first used

- 3. Conceited (4)
- 4. "\_\_\_ / Rugged individual / Glisten like a pearl / At the bottom of the world": *Six Months in a Leaky Boat*, Split Enz (8)
- 5. Bone support (6)
- 6. Marker kayakers go through in white-water slalom races (4)
- 11. NZ species also known as jackfish (8)
- 13. Detail not yet settled (5,3)
- 16. Drink (6)
- 18. Unpleasantly damp (6)
- 20. Temporary quiet (4)
- 22. Christchurch electorate formed in 1996 (4)



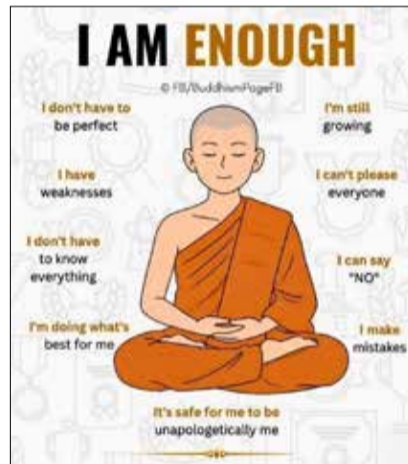
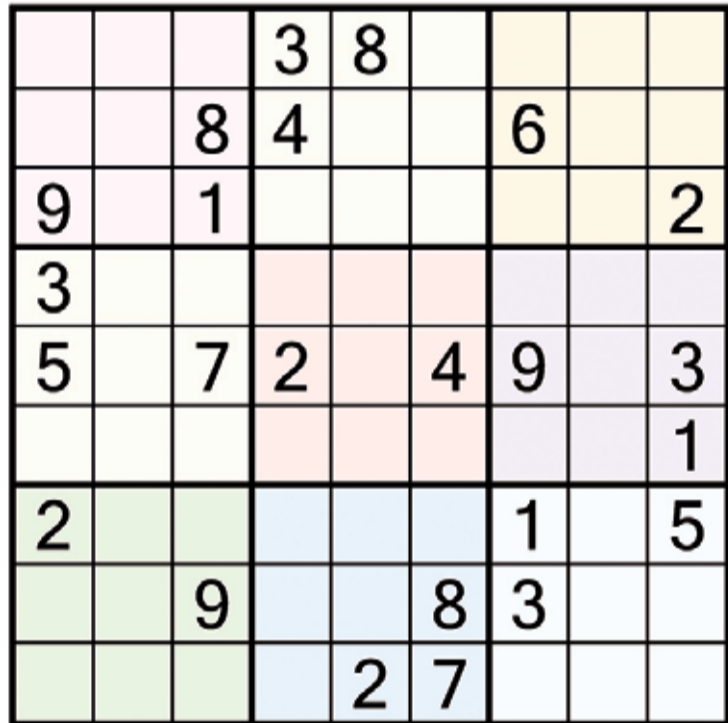
### RANDOM QUIZ

Answers bottom of page.

1. What language has the most native speakers?
2. Which metal is most commonly used for electrical wiring?
3. What's the chemical symbol for gold?
4. What's the term for animals that maintain a constant body temperature?
5. Which philosopher wrote *The Republic*?
6. Which ocean current warms Western Europe?
7. What's the SI unit of electrical resistance?
8. Which dynasty is associated with the Terracotta Army?
9. Which planet has the most moons in the Solar System?
10. Which mammal lays eggs?
11. What is a group of crows called?
12. Which US city is widely considered the birthplace of jazz?
13. Which singer has the most Grammy awards of all time?
14. Which 1977 album is the best-selling of all time worldwide?
15. Which detective did Agatha Christie create who loves "little grey cells"?
16. What is 12<sup>3</sup>?
17. What is the next prime after 97?
18. What device is used to take a picture of your screen?
19. Which novelist wrote *Beloved*?
20. What is the pen name of Mary Ann Evans?

SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

MED #101M 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 opposite page.




**Ōtaki River entrance tides April 15 – May 13**  
<https://www.metservice.com/marine/regions/kapiti-wellington/tides/locations/otaki-river-entrance>  
 The actual timing of high and low tide might differ from below – times are extrapolated from the nearest primary port for this location, so please take care.

	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
WED 13 MAY	-	00:21	06:34	12:50	19:08
THU 14 MAY	-	01:15	07:24	13:40	19:58
FRI 15 MAY	-	02:06	08:12	14:30	20:47
SAT 16 MAY	-	02:54	09:01	15:18	21:34
SUN 17 MAY	-	03:43	09:51	16:07	22:23
MON 18 MAY	-	04:33	10:42	16:57	23:12
TUE 19 MAY	-	05:25	11:35	17:47	-
WED 20 MAY	00:03	06:19	12:31	18:39	-
THU 21 MAY	00:58	07:16	13:29	19:34	-
FRI 22 MAY	01:56	08:15	14:30	20:32	-
SAT 23 MAY	02:59	09:17	15:32	21:35	-
SUN 24 MAY	04:05	10:20	16:37	22:42	-
MON 25 MAY	05:09	11:22	17:41	23:48	-
TUE 26 MAY	06:08	12:19	18:39	-	-
WED 27 MAY	-	00:47	07:00	13:11	19:30
THU 28 MAY	-	01:38	07:46	13:57	20:15
FRI 29 MAY	-	02:22	08:28	14:40	20:55
SAT 30 MAY	-	03:03	09:08	15:20	21:33
SUN 31 MAY	-	03:41	09:46	15:58	22:09
FRI 1 MAY	-	03:30	09:36	15:46	21:58
SAT 2 MAY	-	04:05	10:11	16:21	22:31
SUN 3 MAY	-	04:39	10:45	16:56	23:03
MON 4 MAY	-	05:14	11:19	17:30	23:37
TUE 5 MAY	-	05:50	11:56	18:05	-
WED 6 MAY	00:13	06:28	12:36	18:44	-
THU 7 MAY	00:53	07:12	13:21	19:26	-
FRI 8 MAY	01:40	08:02	14:13	20:16	-

MAY IN HISTORY...

On May 29, 1953 – 73 years ago – New Zealander Edmund Hillary and Nepali-Indian Sherpa Tenzing Norgay became the first climbers confirmed to reach the summit of Mount Everest. News of the achievement reached Britain on the same day as the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, making the moment even more famous around the world. Hillary was famously quoted as saying: "We knocked the bastard off." However, historians note that Hillary himself later said he didn't recall saying it exactly like that, and that the quote likely became embellished over time in retellings.

SUDOKU SOLUTION #101M

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

**CROSSWORD #1959K ANSWERS**  
**Across:** 7. Alligator pear, 8. Scavenge, 9. Iced, 10. Ararat, 12. Rattle, 14. Roo, 15. Scribe, 17. Anchor, 19. Blub, 21. Agitated, 23. Global warming.  
**Down:** 1. Electric, 2. Silver, 3. Vain, 4. Aotearoa, 5. Splint, 6. Gate, 11. Trevally, 13. Loose end, 16. Imbibe, 18. Clammy, 20. Lull, 22. Iam.

**RANDOM QUIZ ANSWERS:**  
 1. Mandarin Chinese, 2. Copper, 3. Au, 4. Endotherms, 5. Plato, 6. The North Atlantic Drift (Gulf Stream), 7. Ohm, 8. Qin dynasty, 9. Saturn, 10. Platyus, 11. A murder, 12. New Orleans, 13. Beyond, 14. Michael Jackson's *Thriller*, 15. Hercule Poirot, 16. 1,728, 17. 101, 20. George Eliot.

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# TAKĀRO/Sport

## Whiti too good for overwhelmed Toa

By Frank Neill

**Whiti Te Rā ki Ōtaki overwhelmed Toa 34-14 in their rugby league encounter at Onepoto Park on Saturday (May 9).**

It was an evenly contested first half, with the teams locked 10-10 at the break. Whiti dominated the second spell, scoring 20 more points than their opponents. The Ōtaki team ran in six tries against Toa, with Tungia Cooper touching down twice. Munz Rik, Levi Kemp, Tawhiei Kereama and Ireiemia Nansen also scored. Aaron Taiapa kicked five conversions.

The match put Whiti into third on the Wellington premier league table.

A week earlier, Whiti faced table-topping St George Dragons at Ōtaki Domain, losing 28-16. Munz, Kingston Grey and Huston Holloway scored for Whiti and Aaron Whikitia kicked two conversions.

Whiti were also beaten the week before when second-placed Wainuiomata Lions took out a 42-24 win at Frederick Wise Park on April 25. However the Ōtaki team beat the Petone Panthers 24-6 at Ōtaki Domain on April 18. Aaron Whikitia had an outstanding match and was rewarded with two tries. Former Rāhui rugby player Joel Winterburn touched down, too. Mason Couchman and Tamati Davis also scored tries and Aaron Taiapa kicked two conversions.



Whiti Te Rā's Kayne Marshall looks for a gap to run past the defenders, watched by Mangaroa Mark. Photo Frank Neill



Clara Hakaraia moves the ball forward on the way to scoring for Ōtaki Kāeaea. Photo Frank Neill

## Big football wins

By Frank Neill

**The two local premier football teams recorded huge victories on Saturday (May 9).**

Ōtaki Purutaitama got its season on a positive track with a massive 9-0 win over the Waikanae Hawks at Waikanae Park. And Manakau Hui Mai had a big 7-2 victory over the Kapiti Coast United Bandits at Matthews Park.

Hui Mai had a bye on May 2, while Purutaitama lost a closely contested encounter with the Waikanae Rangers 2-1.

It was a mixed bag for the local teams on April 25, with Purutaitama drawing 2-2 with Paekākāriki Tuatahi and Hui Mai losing 6-2 to the Waikanae Rangers.

The local women's team, Ōtaki Kāeaea, have one draw and two losses from their first three Capital Football division one matches this season. The draw came against Lower Hutt City when the match ended 0-0.

Although they didn't win, Kāeaea were dominant in the match, and came close to scoring several times. They hit the goalposts twice, and on at least three other occasions they kicked the ball just wide of the goal.

In their latest match, Kāeaea were beaten 4-1 by the Wellington United Opals at Haruātai Park on May 10. Clara Hakaraia scored for the Ōtaki team.

In their first match of the season on April 19, Kāeaea were beaten 4-2 by the Seatoun Sea Shanties. Lou Ruru Donnell scored both Kāeaea's goals.

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