

ŌTAKI TODAY

Ngā kōrero o Ōtaki

HŪRAE/JULY 2026

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Farewell to church



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A great rangatira gone

By Ian Carson

Aotearoa lost one of its great rangatira when Matua Whatarangi Winiata (Ngāti Raukawa) died peacefully at his Te Manuao Road home in Ōtaki on June 3 aged 92.

Known simply as Whata to many in Ōtaki, he was a man whose influence reached across generations, institutions and communities, but whose greatest legacy will be found in the people he inspired.

In this small town, Dr Winiata's name is inseparable from the kaupapa that transformed the future for its Māori people – Whakatupuranga Rua Mano: Generation 2000.

Born from the aspirations of Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, Te Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai and Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Whakatupuranga Rua Mano was a long-term development strategy specially designed to develop their people, restore their language and marae, and to express their self-determination.

It became the foundation for Te Wānanga o Raukawa, Aotearoa's first Māori centre for higher learning, delivering university level qualifications. Dr Winiata was central to imagining and driving that vision. The Wānanga has provided education rooted in kaupapa Māori, te reo Māori and iwi knowledge, creating opportunities for generations of learners.

He was also one of eight Māori negotiators involved in the Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Settlement, a



Photo courtesy of Norm Heke Photography

“His measure was not in the scale of his achievements, but in the work, and the people the work was for . . . He never made you feel small in order to make himself large. He made you feel capable, and then quietly expected you to be.”

Daphne Luke

landmark process that reshaped Māori economic development.

Dr Winiata's life was one of extraordinary achievement. He was an accountant, academic, professor, rugby player, treaty negotiator, church leader, political figure and Wānanga founder. Yet those who knew him well say his titles were never what defined him.

As Daphne Luke, co-author of his book, *The Survival of Māori as a People*, reflected after his death, his measure was not in the scale of his achievements, but in “the work, and the people the work was for”.

Raised from Ngātokowaru Marae at Hokio Beach, Dr Winiata devoted his life to Māori advancement and the survival of Māori as a people. His leadership was grounded in service, humility and a deep commitment to kaupapa tuku iho – the responsibility of carrying forward what previous generations had built.

Those who worked alongside him remember not only the major achievements, but the way he carried himself. Daphne described him as embodying manaakitanga, kotahitanga and wairuatanga – not as ideas to be spoken about, but as values he lived every day.

“He never made you feel small in order to make himself large,” she said. “He made you feel capable, and then quietly expected you to be.”

That approach reflected his belief that leadership was not about creating followers, but about building people.

Dr Winiata's influence extended well beyond Ōtaki. He was involved in education initiatives including Te Aute and Hukarere Colleges, Te Whare Wānanga o Te Pihopātanga o Aotearoa, Te Rūnanga o Raukawa and Raukawa Whānau Ora, Te Hono ki Raukawa and numerous iwi development projects.

He led Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga's oral history report to the Waitangi Tribunal, ensuring hapū voices were recorded by hapū and in their own words.

He was also a canon for over 30 years and served as inaugural president of Te Pāti Māori, continuing his lifelong commitment to Māori representation and self-determination.

Yet despite his public standing, those close to him describe a man who remained deeply humble, with a dry humour and a genuine warmth for everyone he encountered.

He was known for giving the same attention and respect to all people, whether they were community members, workers, chief executives or politicians. A simple greeting was never rushed; every person was acknowledged.

That quiet humanity may be one of the strongest parts of his legacy.

In his later years, as his health declined, his mana remained undiminished. He was surrounded by whānau, including his lifelong partner Frances, and continued to be remembered for the generosity and wisdom he shared.

continues page 4

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WHAT'S ON

LTP – HAVE YOUR SAY KCDC is seeking feedback on its proposed priorities and planning principles for the next Long-term Plan (2027-37). Have a chat with councillors for a cuppa and a sausage sizzle from 10.30am and 12.30pm at Ōtaki Memorial Hall on Saturday (July 4).

MATARIKI RACING Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, Te Roto Rd. Friday July 10.

MATARIKI ON MOANA 84 Moana St, Ōtaki Beach. 10am-3pm Saturday, July 11. Kai, kawhe, markets, tamoko, art, clothing and music to help celebrate the Māori New Year. Performances by Hollie Smith, and Tawaz. Adults \$20, under 18 free. Tickets from humanitix.com

STAR GLAZE Meet local artists, get hands-on pottery experiences, and enjoy a vibrant festival atmosphere at the Star Glaze mid-winter ceramics festival. Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, 10am-4pm, July 10-11.

JAZZ CONCERT Mulled Wine Concerts presents The Zanzibar Jazz Ensemble with Erna Ferry, 2.30pm Sunday, July 12, at Memorial Hall, 98 The Parade, Paekākāriki. Tickets \$35, students U16 \$15. Sales: marygow@gmail.com See mulledwineconcerts.com

QUIZ NIGHT Te Horo Hall fundraiser, Thursday, July 16, at the hall. Teams of eight, \$20pp. Cash bar. See tehorohall.org.nz

WAENGA A play at Ōtaki College, July 30, created by Hariata and Tamati Moriarty and directed by Jim Moriarty. Recommended age 12+ contains swearing and depicts some violence. Children under 12 free with a paying adult. Tickets 0800 289 849. See page 9.

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

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

OLD COURTHOUSE GALLERY 239 Main Highway, Ōtaki.

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

TOTE MODERN GALLERY The Ōtaki Pottery

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

ŌTAKI WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB Meeting at the Family Hotel, 30 Main St, Ōtaki, 5.30-8.30pm Wednesday July 8. If you'd like to get together for a club meeting, then have dinner, email otakiwomensclub@outlook.com

COMMUNITY BOARDS The next **Ōtaki Community Board** meeting at the Gertrude Atmore Supper Room is 7pm on Tuesday, July 21. The next **Waikanae Community Board** meeting is 6.30pm on Tuesday August 25 at Waikanae Community Centre, 28 Utauta St. The public is welcome at meetings. Search "meetings and agendas" at kapiticoast.govt.nz To speak at a meeting, register by calling 04 296 4700 or 0800 486 486, or email democracy.services@kapiticoast.govt.nz

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

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

FAMILY HISTORY Monthly group meetings, 7.30pm 4th Tuesday of the month (Feb to Nov), at the Gertrude Atmore Supper Room.

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

ŌTAKI STROKE SUPPORT GROUP: Meets for Sit and Be Fit classes, 10am Fridays at Senior Citizens' Hall, Rangitira Street. All welcome.

ŌTAKI LIBRARY – ALL SESSIONS FREE:

JP service every Monday 10.30am-12.30pm;

Age Concern every 2nd Thursday 10am-noon

Greypower 1st & 3rd Thursday 10.30am-1.30pm.

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

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

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

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

Will Labour see red with Greens?

The Green Party's shedding of its mantle as New Zealand's environmental champion for a covering of radical taxation reform establishes the 2026 election as a straight-out battle between the socialist left and moderate capitalist right.

No ifs, no buts, the Greens are now the clear-cut champions of socialism with Chloe Swarbrick in the vanguard.

That the Greens portfolio of tax imposts is so wide ranging, and has been made so early in this preliminary stage of electioneering for the November 7 vote, places Labour in an awkward position. Should it swing more toward alignment with the Greens recipe for garnering state funds or seek to hold a middle ground?

Will the nod it has made toward a capital gains tax be sufficient to stave off a switch of allegiance by its more radical supporters favouring a "sock the wealthy" suite of policies? Or can it afford to remain true to its Clark-Ardern inheritance of arguable moderation in the left-right battle for political dominance?

National will campaign relentlessly on the economic mess the Ardern administration left for it; the necessity to reduce the massive debt burden the country faces – \$9 billion a year currently in interest bills on accumulated debt – and the importance of economic health to preservation of social services and an easing of the cost of living.

The Greens' taxation policies are more dangerous for Labour than differentials that may appear between policies of NZ First and Act with National. NZ First is well attuned to voter sentiment and reactive to it. Act represents a capitalist ginger group on National's right – similar to the position on the left formerly held by the Greens with Labour.

National is well accustomed, at times with great reluctance, to policy adjustments for the sake of voting peace with its current coalition partners. Labour, on the other hand, is accustomed to dealing with the Greens much as an experienced big brother might talk down to a younger sibling. The Greens could be relied on to settle happily into coalition with a dominant say on environmental and conservation matters.

Now, however, Labour looks certain to face relentless questioning of the extent to which it is prepared to accept the Greens taxation position. Modified? By how much? Is it a showstopper

that would prevent a Labour-Greens coalition? If not, what would Labour accept from the Greens suite of taxation policies?

If Labour cannot work with the Greens because of these policies, what chance does it have of reaching the Treasury benches? NZ First has ruled out joining a Labour-led coalition, and any retreat from that stance would likely be seen as confirmation of claims that it cannot be trusted. The Te Pati Maori (TPM) share of the vote is unlikely to be sufficient for Labour to form a government with it.

In the meantime, National is hitching its fresh election policy pitches to opportunities for export growth in both quantity and price through a combination of new trade agreements and pursuit of higher tourist numbers. Along

with the business growth scenario comes emphasis on continuing the drive for more focused education at primary and secondary levels. Reforms in education over the past two years are considered by the party to be among its major achievements since assuming leadership of the coalition.

Its taxation changes are moderate but the plans for compulsory KiwiSaver contributions fit with its approach to generate better incomes for retirees and lift the level of investment cash available to build infrastructure and encourage entrepreneurial business growth.

There is unlikely to be any lessening of National's plan to reduce the size of the public service. This is a core element of its bid to get the country back into surplus with its operating accounts, a surplus the prime minister sees as essential to damping down inflation and raising wage levels.

Overall, while the cost of living dominates the list of issues that the political parties see as the prime one over which they will battle on the hustings, it is the Greens who have opened up a most basic debate for electorate decision:

Extreme socialism with high taxes to fund the demands of "the state"; or a moderate mix of socialism forged with the intent that minimal state intervention is desirable consistent with humanitarian approaches, efficient administration, and public security?

In the meantime, the spectacle of the Greens confirming their change of tack from environmental green to deep socialist red has added an unexpected twist to 2026 election.

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

POLITICS



BRUCE KOHN

Creative Communities Scheme – applications now open

Kāpiti Coast District Council has around \$23,000 available through its Creative Communities Scheme to support Kāpiti artists and community organisations with arts and cultural projects.

Applications close at 5pm, Monday 27 July

We're looking for projects that:

- create opportunities for our local communities to engage in.
- support the diverse arts and cultural traditions of our local communities.
- enable and encourage young people to engage with and actively participate in the arts.

Find more information about the Creative Communities Scheme at kapiticoast.govt.nz/CreativeCommunities or by emailing creativecs@kapiticoast.govt.nz

Kāpiti Coast
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Me Huri Whakamuri, Ka Tōngi Whakamua

ŌTAKI TODAY

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki

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Presbyterians farewell church

By Ian Carson

The Ōtaki Presbyterian Church is set to be sold, with the congregation preparing to farewell a building that has been part of the local community for more than three decades.

The Mill Road church property will be placed on the market with an asking price of \$1.45 million. Any future use of the site will depend on the purchaser.

Funds from the sale will go into the Church Property Trustees, which provides stewardship and owns the property and assets of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The decision to sell the property comes after a period of declining attendance and increasing challenges in maintaining a church building that is now larger than the current congregation justifies.

Rev Peter Jackson, minister of the Ōtaki-Waikanae parish, says it's no longer economic to keep the church property, and the congregation numbers are not what they used to be.

"There's about 25 people on the [Ōtaki] roll, and regular Sunday attendance is about 12 people," he says.

Until recently, a service was held every Sunday at the Ōtaki church, but the parish has recently moved to a new arrangement where every third Sunday is a joint service at the Waikanae church.

The final service at the Ōtaki church was at 2pm on Sunday, June 28.

Ōtaki parishioners are being encouraged to attend services at the Waikanae church, although Peter says the connection with Ōtaki will continue.

"I remain the minister for Ōtaki," he says. "I'm hoping we can have some informal monthly gatherings for locals, possibly at Rangiatea Church, so there is still a local connection."

The popular "Messy Church" at Hadfield Hall on a Friday afternoon will continue, and Peter remains a trustee of the joint Presbyterian-Anglican Te Awhi Rito Trust, which supports local youngsters.

The current church building has been part of Ōtaki's landscape since 1992, when the more modern and spacious facility was opened.

Before that, the first Presbyterian church in Ōtaki was on Rangatira Street, and opened in 1930.

The final church garage sale was on June 20. It was a regular Saturday event that over the years had provided used items to support families and helped bring people together in the church grounds.



Parishioners Quentin Christie, Janice King and Heather Watson with minister Peter Jackson (middle right) at the Presbyterian Church. Photo Ōtaki Today

Parishioners rue end of an era

Long-time Ōtaki Presbyterian parishioners Janice King and Heather Watson are saddened by the imminent sale of their church.

It's more than the loss of a building – it's the end of a place filled with memories, friendship and community service.

Janice says she and many others did a lot of fundraising to get the church built in 1992. It included garage sales, community events and shared meals, with parishioners determined to create a new home for the congregation.

"It's really disappointing," she says. "But there aren't the same numbers of people attending nowadays."

"What it really comes down to is money. We just can't keep the two churches running – Ōtaki and Waikanae. It's very sad. It's not just the building, it's all the people over the years who have made up this church family and have worked together, not just in the church but for outreach into the community".

Heather says she was devastated when she learned the church's fate.

"It was a shock," she says. "Janice and I cried. We worked our butts off fundraising. Not long before it opened we were \$30,000 short. But it opened debt free."

For Heather, the church's value has always extended beyond Sunday worship. The congregation has supported the wider community in many quiet ways, including helping families in need, supporting other churches and providing practical assistance to local organisations.

The church has also been an important venue for community gatherings, funerals and groups over the years.

While the closure is a difficult moment, Heather says she has happy memories.

"I think of all the fun, all the laughter, all the support and helping the community," she says. "That was lovely. But now it's the end of an era."

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 REALTY

Court rules age restriction illegal

An Ōtaki woman has won a legal battle after the High Court upheld an arbitration ruling declaring an age-based occupancy restriction was unlawful and unenforceable.

In a judgment sealed by the High Court in Wellington on June 11, Justice La Hood ordered that an arbitration award in favour of Amanda Cashman be entered as a judgment of the court.

The ruling centres on a clause in a Ferniehirst Villas management agreement that prohibited residents from allowing anyone under the age of 50 to occupy their villa for more than two weeks without written consent from the body corporate committee.

The dispute arose after Ms Cashman's adult daughter, who is under 50, came to live with her at the Waerenga Road lifestyle village. Ms Cashman sought permission for the arrangement, citing personal circumstances affecting her daughter. The body corporate committee declined the request, finding there were no "exceptional circumstances" to justify an exemption from the village's over-50s rule.

Ferniehirst Management Ltd subsequently argued that Ms Cashman had breached the agreement and sought declarations that the restriction was valid and enforceable.

Ms Cashman challenged the clause, arguing it breached the Human Rights Act 1993 by discriminating on the basis of age.

Arbitrator Michael Wolff agreed.

In a detailed award issued on April 8, Mr Wolff found the village did not qualify for an exemption under the Human Rights Act, which allows age-based accommodation restrictions in certain settings such as retirement villages, hostels and other establishments.

Although Ferniehirst Villas was marketed as a lifestyle village for people aged 50+, the arbitrator found it was not a retirement village and did not meet the legal definition of an "establishment" entitled to rely on the exemption.

The decision noted that while residents shared common facilities and social activities, the development operated largely as a standard unit-title complex and lacked the structured

organisation and services associated with retirement villages or similar institutions.

Mr Wolff concluded that the age restriction amounted to unlawful discrimination under section 53 of the Human Rights Act.

As a result, he ruled that clause 8 of the management agreement was illegal under the Contract and Commercial Law Act 2017 and therefore void and of no effect. The High Court's order confirmed that finding.

The ruling is likely to affect other lifestyle villages and residential developments that impose age-based occupancy restrictions outside the retirement village framework.

For Ms Cashman, the decision brings to an end a dispute that has been ongoing since 2024.

Ōtaki loses great rangatira

from front page

For Ōtaki, the passing of Whatarangi Winiata marks the end of an era. But the kaupapa he helped establish continues.

The akomanga (classrooms) of Te Wānanga o Raukawa, the graduates who carry knowledge forward, the whānau strengthened by education, and the generations who continue to build on Whakatupuranga Rua Mano all stand as living expressions of his vision.

Ultimately, his greatest achievement will be less about the institutions and kaupapa he helped create, and more about the people who now carry them forward.

New World donations help top up foodbank

New World Ōtaki has topped up the local foodbank with more than 170 food parcels and boxes of consumables.

The annual donation is from the Family 2 Family appeal at New World, with a further contribution of goods from the supermarket.

Ōtaki owner Raj Singh says it's all about locals helping locals.

"We want to give back to the community when we can," he says. "It's a circular kind of thing, right?"

Foodbank chair Graeme Baumgart says he's grateful for the support.

"It allows us to continue doing what we do, making sure local people have the support they need."



New World grocery buyer Hina Makan, foodbank trustee Graham Evans, New World Ōtaki owner Raj Singh and foodbank chair Graeme Baumgart surrounded by donations from the community. Photo Ōtaki Today

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Ōtaki has biggest rates hike

By Ian Carson

Analysis of 2026-27 rates rises for each of the main centres shows Ōtaki tops the list for Kāpiti Coast by more than 1.5 percentage points.

Council figures put Ōtaki's median rates rise up 9.94%, well ahead of Paraparaumu at 8.42%, Waikanae at 8.05%, Raumati 8.04%, and Paekākāriki 3.5%. Commercial rates across the district will go up 5.91%, while the rural sector gets some relief with a drop of 5.02%.

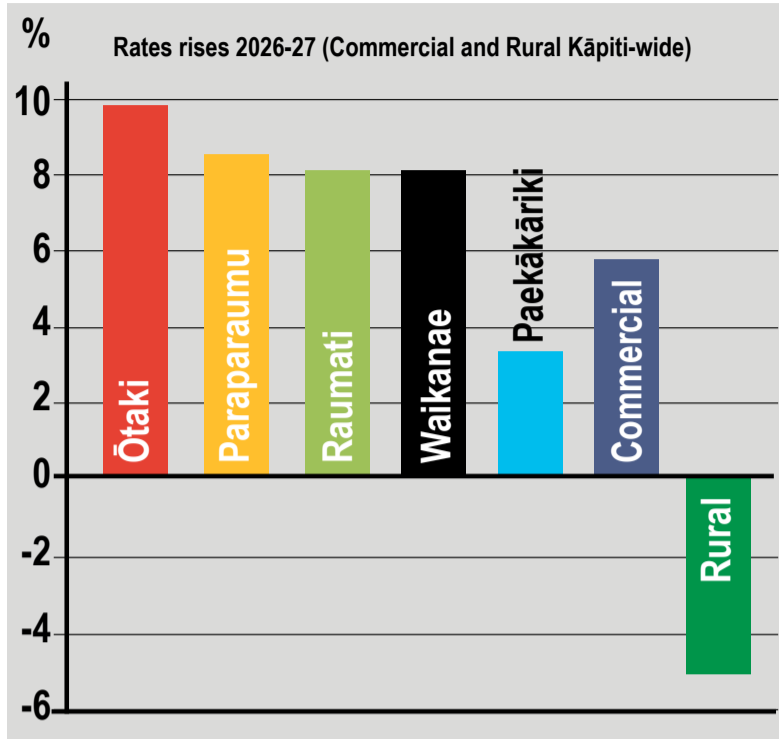
Median rates refer to the middle value when all properties in an area are ranked by their value. Individual property rates might be below or above the median, depending on property value, type, and location.

Rates in each area are determined by movement in property values.

In Ōtaki's case, the rates rise is greater because values have increased more than in other areas of the district. The average property in Ōtaki is valued at \$560,000.

Rates in 2025-26 were on average \$4275 – they go up in 2026-27 by

** This year the council has changed how it distributes interest costs to activities to better align with where debt is incurred. The share of interest assigned to roading is lower than other areas. Rates for rural properties that pay for roading but not all other services have been adjusted accordingly.*



\$425 to \$4700, including GST. That equates to about \$8.20 extra a week.

The dollar increase for Ōtaki is also higher than other areas of Kāpiti. In Paraparaumu the estimated median rise is about \$409 a year, Raumati \$405, Waikanae \$400, and Paekākāriki \$172.

Ōtaki, however, still has the lowest of the district's rates – the median rate for Raumati for 2026-27 is \$5451, Waikanae \$5377, Paraparaumu \$5263, and Paekākāriki \$5091.

The above figures exclude rates for Greater Wellington Regional Council.

On June 25, GW said the average regional rates increase would be 9.7% for 2026-27. Residential rates (inc GST) are up on average \$83.83 a year (\$1.61 a week), business rates (ex GST) \$695.70 (\$13.38 a week), and rural rates (ex GST) \$103.25 (\$1.99 a week).

In Kāpiti, the median rates rise throughout the district is 6.5 percent.

KCDC says that in the coming year it will continue work agreed with the community and keep building a resilient future for Kāpiti.

Commenting on its 6.5% median rate increase, the council says it is balancing rising costs, and investing in essential services and infrastructure, while keeping rates affordability at the top of mind.

It has removed \$1.9 million from staff and project costs, adjusted its fees and charges, and paused its planned rates debt reduction.

The council found savings for the Annual Plan 2026/27:

- reducing staff costs due to both organisational and project delivery changes (\$660,000)
- reducing funding for the Social Investment Fund (\$150,000)
- increasing fees for private plan changes (\$200,000)
- reducing economic development budget (\$325,000)
- reducing cultural capacity funding (\$150,000)
- stopping our planned rates-funded debt reduction for one year (\$400,000)
- increasing fees and charges to reflect the impact of inflation, generating an additional \$300,000.

The council will still invest about \$75 million in capital works in the 2026/27 year. This includes planning for a second water reservoir, and installing a new bore in Ōtaki.

Award for Pete's innovation

Ōtaki's Pete Housiaux has been awarded the Innovation Award at the Surf Life Saving New Zealand Capital Coast Awards of Excellence.

At a ceremony on June 20, Pete

(at right) was recognised for his work with the Manawatu Tararua Search and Rescue team, developing



a specialised prop guard for inflatable rescue boats (IRBs) that improves safety and reliability during flood and river rescue operations.

"We're incredibly proud of Pete's achievement and the impact his innovation is having across the search and rescue sector," the Ōtaki Surf Lifesaving Club said.

Other award nominees from Ōtaki were Jane Lenaghan, Bekki Sherlock, Mia King, Marty Yaxley, Carrie Yaxley, and Ella Gilpin.

"Having so many members recognised is a reflection of the commitment, skill, and dedication within our club," the Ōtaki club said.

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Ōtaki Dollars – shop local, win big!

A major campaign is coming to Ōtaki and Te Horo this October to support local businesses, encourage local spending, and give one lucky shopper the chance to win \$5,000 in Ōtaki Dollars.

The Ōtaki Dollars promotion is a community-wide initiative to encourage people to buy locally and for out-of-town visitors to stop and spend, to discover the fantastic range of services and products available right here.

“We are connecting with our local businesses and invite everyone to participate,” says Ōtaki and Te Horo Business Association (ŌTHBA) Chair Deb Shannon. “We business owners have all experienced challenging times. This is an opportunity to encourage new and existing customers to come and spend in your business.

“We have all had roadwork fatigue and now it’s time to move forward and encourage visitors to our cool little corner of Kāpiti and embrace what we have to offer. Be a part of something absolutely positive!”

The concept is simple – participating businesses register to be part of the promotion, shoppers spend during October and by registering three



receipts of \$20 or more from different participating stores, go into the draw to win a weekly spot prize. One lucky shopper will win an incredible \$5000 in Ōtaki Dollars to spend at participating stores of their choice. Shoppers can enter as many times as they like. The more receipts collected, the more chances to win.

It’s open to all businesses providing goods and services within the Ōtaki and Te Horo area. Whether you’re a retailer, café, tradesperson, professional service provider, health practitioner, accommodation provider, grower, online business, artisan or community-minded business owner, you’re encouraged to get involved.

The more businesses that register, the more exciting the promotion. A larger range of businesses means more opportunities for residents and visitors to explore what our district has to offer.

For shoppers it’s an opportunity to rediscover local favourites, visit businesses they might not have tried before, and support the people who contribute to the character and vitality of our community every day. The promotion aims to celebrate exactly that spirit. It’s about showcasing the diversity, talent and entrepreneurial energy that exists across Ōtaki and Te Horo.

Business registrations are now open, and organisers – the Ōtaki and Te Horo Business Association – are encouraging

businesses to sign up as soon as possible.

The campaign will be supported by robust social media and radio marketing. Funding has been made possible due to part of the funds allocated to ŌTHBA by Waka Kotahi “for the business of supporting all local businesses to increase profile and attractiveness, and as a visitor destination as a whole”.

If you’re a business based in Ōtaki or Te Horo, now is the time to register. Together, we can make Ōtaki Dollars a celebration of local shopping, local services and local community.

Ts and Cs apply.

- To register go to: www.othba.co.nz/otaki-dollars-registration
- For more about the Ōtaki and Te Horo Business Association visit: www.othba.com



Do you own a business in Ōtaki or Te Horo?

Whether you’re a local plumber, a nail technician or a local supermarket, you can join our promotion this spring.

Your customers can go in the draw to win \$5000 Ōtaki Dollars* to spend at their chosen participating businesses.

www.othba.co.nz | info@othba.com



SCAN ME

Scan the link above or visit

www.othba.com/otaki-dollars-registration to register your business, and take part in the Ōtaki Dollars Promotion!

Shoppers – follow

[Facebook.com/ŌtakiSmallTownBigHeart/](https://www.facebook.com/ŌtakiSmallTownBigHeart/) to find out how YOU could win!

*Ts&Cs apply

Ōtaki
MANAAKITANGA
SMALL TOWN. BIG HEART.

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

College honours Hall of Famers

Kathy Tracey returned to Ōtaki College on Friday (June 26) to be inducted into the XŌtaki Alumni Trust Hall of Fame.

She also addressed students recounting her epic journey rowing with three other women across the Atlantic – a feat that gave them a Guinness World Record. Kathy, who now lives in the UK, has forged a remarkable sporting and professional career, far from her days as a surf lifesaver at Ōtaki.

She and Dr Lincoln Nicholls were added to the Hall of Fame last year. Lincoln has served in the Army as a captain and medical officer and is now an orthopaedic surgeon.

Shelley Macrae and Robin Philipp were also honoured as the first Friends of Ōtaki College for their support of XŌtaki initiatives that have enhanced the lives of college students.



New Friend of Ōtaki College Shelley Macrae, left, and Hall of Fame 2026 recipient Kathy Tracey. Photo Ōtaki Today

IOWŌ names resident storytellers

Kia Rerekē te Hua, Ōtaki (In Other Words, Ōtaki) has named some top storytellers for the 2026 residency.

They include Ashleigh Young, Claire Baylis, Lily Duval, Mark Amery and Michele A’Court. They will all come to Ōtaki from September 4-13, staying in donated baches while developing their own projects and connecting with the community. Throughout the residency, they will take part in small, collaborative events with local groups whose kaupapa aligns with their interests and expertise.

Their time in Ōtaki will end with a community lunch on Sunday, September 13, at the Memorial Hall.

“After the success of our 2025 pilot, we couldn’t wait to bring the residency back, and were thrilled to receive another wave of outstanding applications for the five places,” says IOWŌ spokesperson Jacqui Simpson.

The focus is on storytellers who drive social change –

people exploring fresh, positive, and progressive ways of thinking about community, people, and the environment.

Storyteller resident Ashleigh Young has written two poetry collections – *Magnificent Moon* (2012) and *How I Get Ready* (2019) – and the essay collection *Can You Tolerate This?* (2016). Claire Baylis uses stories to interrogate legal issues and the justice system, and is author of *Dice* (2023). Lily Duval wrote and illustrated the non-fiction book *Six-legged Ghosts*, and illustrated Nicola Toki’s *Critters of Aotearoa*. Mark Amery is an arts journalist, producer, and broadcaster. Michèle A’Court is a comedian, writer, and actor. She was MC at last year’s lunch.

- *Event supporters include Kelly & Co as principal sponsor, the Creative Communities Scheme, Ōtaki Community Board, New World, Ōtaki Women’s Community Club, Books & Co, Chatswood Kitchens, Concrete Doctors, Land Matters and the Big Egg.*

■ See iowo.org.nz

Footballers keep up winning ways

By Frank Neill

Ōtaki Purutaitama comfortably won both its last two Horowhenua-Kāpiti premier football matches.

In doing so they also kept their opposition scoreless.

Purutaitama defeated Paekākāriki Tuatahi 2-0 on June 13 and followed that up with a 5-0 victory against Ōhau on June 20.

Travis Robertson and Te Hau Cook both scored in the win over Paekākāriki, then scored a goal each against Ōhau. Vinnie Morris, Tom Mackley and Jamal Rautao also scored against Ōhau.

There was no play in the competition on June 6.

Ōtaki Kaeaea, the premier women’s team in the Capital 1 competition, began the month with a convincing 6-0 victory over Brooklyn Northern United on June 7. Ngaire Dolman starred with a hat-trick. Lou Ruru Donnel scored two goals, and Chelsea Halliday one.

A week later at Naenae, Ōtaki Kaeaea faced table-topping Naenae, tumbling to a 0-9 defeat.

Then on June 21, neither Kaeaea nor the Petone Flaming Pickles found the net, the match ending in a 0-0 draw.

Manakau Hui Mai, the club’s premier team, won one and lost one of its June matches. They convincingly defeated the Waikanae Jets 6-2 on June 20, the Saturday before they lost to the Waikanae Rangers 1-4.

Hui Mai’s Atain Halley scored in both matches. Cam Lafrentz, Cam Manclarke, Michael Glensor, Stanley Butler and Hawaiki Te Huki also scored goals in the match against the Waikanae Jets.

■ **More sport page 20**



Pututaima’s Travis Robertson runs past his marker in the team’s 6-0 win over Ōhau on June 20. Photo: Frank Neill

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.



Reverse mortgages ease later year worries

By James Buchanan

Reverse mortgages – why, and for who, do they exist?

For some, they can be a great help in times of need, as long as they're handled by a responsible and reputable provider.

Many New Zealanders enter retirement with limited cash reserves. For some, NZ Superannuation is their only income. Others may still be managing mortgage or credit card repayments – making it harder to enjoy the retirement they've worked so hard for.

For many, a responsible reverse mortgage can help, if the preferred option is staying in the house they love.

Reverse mortgage lending helps homeowners unlock some of the equity in their home – without having to sell or move. It's a flexible way to access funds while continuing to live in and own their home.

There are no regular repayments required. Instead, interest is added to the loan balance, which is repaid when the homeowners permanently leave the home. Reverse mortgage interest compounds over time, so the longer the term, the more interest is accrued. Therefore, it's important to be disciplined about what the lending is used for and draw down only what is needed.



Recently I have helped many retirees use a responsible reverse mortgage to help with:

- home improvements and maintenance – keeping the home safe, warm and comfortable
- everyday costs, making life a little easier by topping up the pension monthly – often only \$500 or \$1000 a month is needed
- medical expenses – accessing funds to cover care when it's needed most
- a new car – for safe, reliable transport
- travel – visiting friends and family

while still active

- repaying existing debts – easing the pressure of regular repayments
- Key features include:
- the ability to stay in your home for as long as you choose
 - a guarantee that the loan repayment will never exceed the net sale proceeds of the home
 - no requirement to make repayments until the end of the loan (part and full repayments can be made at any time with no penalties for early repayment).
- Interesting facts:

- more than 27,000 NZ customers have been helped with a reverse mortgage since 2004
 - the average age of a new reverse mortgage borrower is 73
 - average initial loan amount is \$78,000
 - average length of a reverse mortgage is six years.
- Reverse mortgages are not appropriate for everyone's situation and I may be able to find an alternative solution to suit your needs. Key considerations include being disciplined about how the lending is used, and minimising the length of the time the reverse mortgage is required. In addition, it's important to understand that a reverse mortgage is likely to detract from the estate you leave behind to beneficiaries.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the peace of mind a reverse mortgage can offer, feel free to share this information. I'm always happy to have a no-obligation chat, answer any questions, and see if this is the right product for you, your family member, or friend.

- James Buchanan
- Team Zebunisso, Mike Pero Mortgages
- Phone 027 22 88 992

Thinking about a reverse mortgage?

Get clear, honest answers with James Buchanan

Learn how you could access money from your home while continuing to live in it. Cover everyday costs, repairs, or future needs – at your own pace.



027 228 8992

james.buchanan@mikepero.co.nz

Mike Pero

Play draws Rameka back

By Ian Carson

For Rameka Tamaki, returning to Ōtaki College with the acclaimed play *Waenga* will be much more than another performance.

It will be a homecoming. The former Ōtaki College deputy head boy will be back at his old school on July 30 as part of Te Rākau's lower North Island tour of *Waenga*, a powerful production exploring systemic violence, racism, identity and the experiences of rangatahi Māori trying to create change.

The show, written by siblings Hariata and Tamati Moriarty, is on at Wellington from June 19 to July 5 before going on tour to more than 17 marae, schools, theatres and community venues.

Performing at Ōtaki College carries special meaning for Rameka.

"It's a full-circle moment. To be able to bring it back into our communities, and especially Ōtaki, is really special," he says.

Rameka was born in Tamaki Makaurau, moved to Pōneke when he was 5, and then Ōtaki aged 10. His years at Ōtaki College were formative, with performing arts playing a major role.

"I was involved in the performing arts council and a lot of theatre while I was there," he says.

Music was also a constant presence.

His mother, Suzanne Tamaki, was involved with the influential Pacific Sisters collective, and Rameka grew up surrounded by performance, fashion and creative expression.



Rameka Tamaki, who returns to Ōtaki College on July 30. Photo Stephen A'Court

"I was one of those babies raised backstage at performances," he says.

His passion for guitar began after seeing a flamenco guitarist perform when he was young, eventually leading him to classical guitar and a bachelor of music with first class honours from Te Kōkī – New Zealand School of Music – at Victoria University of Wellington.

Rameka has since worked across music and theatre, collaborating with artists like Tame Iti, Horomona Horo and the New Zealand Opera Company. He is also part of the band Mokomoko and The Shwayliens, as well as undertaking collaborative creative projects.

He started on the *Waenga* project with Hurō Productions. The play was devised originally as a three-piece performance for the Kia Mau festival. Then Rameka worked with Te Rākau in *Out The Gate*,

which toured the lower North Island last year, and is now working on the bigger version of *Waenga* with nine performers

The production examines the challenges facing rangatahi Māori who are navigating systems that have often failed them, while also highlighting resilience and hope.

Hariata and Tamati Moriarty created the work with rangatahi voices at its centre, consulting with young people during its development. Rameka says that connection is one of the reasons the play resonates.

"It's about seeing those voices and those experiences represented," he says.

The expanded version of *Waenga* features more songs, more action and a larger cast, with Rameka contributing musically as well as performing.

He helped create some of the music for the production, writing numbers alongside fellow cast members.

"It's a really collaborative process," he says. "Everyone brings something to it."

The work reflects the importance of creating art that belongs to communities.

"Being an artist, you have to build connections with others," he says. "I feel really supported by the communities I'm part of."

After the *Waenga* tour, he plans to continue developing his music, teaching guitar and creating new work, including a future classical guitar album. While opportunities have taken him elsewhere, Ōtaki remains a key part of his identity.

"It's always going to be home to me," he says. "And being able to come back and share this work is something I'm really grateful for."

BRIEFS

Libraries go cash-free

Kāpiti Coast's public libraries are dispensing with cash payments – but just when Ōtaki Library goes cash-free is yet to be decided. "We are steadily evolving our services across the district to meet customer demand and social changes, and going cash-free is just another step in that direction," says council libraries manager Siren Deluxe.

Funds allow hall reclad to begin

Fundraising for Te Horo Hall has allowed a start on recladding the hall's west and south walls. Hall Society chair Bryan Hall says fundraising will continue until the hall renovation is complete. In his annual report, Bryan says highlights this year have included the Garden Trail raising more than \$50,000, completion of key earthquake strengthening tasks, and confirmation that KDCDC will deliver the long awaited carpark. The solar project and annex roof replacement were advanced, and important hall improvements were completed.

Kite festival gets council support

The Ōtaki International Kite Festival is to receive \$20,000 from Kāpiti Coast District Council's Major Events Fund to assist with the 2027 festival. The festival will be on the weekend of March 6-7,

Local vets win national award

Vets on Riverbank has won Vet Clinic of the Year at the 2026 Southern Cross Pet Insurance Pawsies Awards. The judges said the Ōtaki vets stood out for the kindness, empathy and commitment they showed pets and their owners, backed by their decades of advanced care.

Twenty-six call-outs for brigade

Ōtaki's fire brigade attended 26 incidents in May. Seven each were for: rubbish, grass or scrub fires; and to attend private fire alarms. Three each were for medical emergencies, vehicle crashes, and "special service". There was one property fire, one "good intent", and one call-out to assist a neighbouring brigade.



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**Prioritise
Kāpiti**

Have we got

Help us shape our ten-year plan

Community priorities are about you, and everyone who calls Kāpiti home.

In 2024, through Vision Kāpiti, residents shared their aspirations for the future of our district. This helped shape our place, people and partnership outcomes – the areas that support Kāpiti to thrive and grow well together.

Now, as we start to prepare our Long-term Plan 2027–37 (LTP), we want to check back in. Have we got our priorities right? Do they reflect what matters most?

It's not business as usual

We know times are tough – costs and inflationary pressures are real and we're all feeling it strongly in our back pocket right now. Your elected councillors agree rate rises are too high.

That's why we're taking a practical approach to our LTP.

We're not proposing to do everything at once – that wouldn't be realistic or affordable. Instead, we want to take steady steps forward, year-by-year, focusing on the things that will make the biggest difference and deliver the best results for Kāpiti.

We also need to make sure the plan is financially responsible. That means not simply pushing problems, costs or infrastructure needs down the road, where they can become harder and more expensive to fix.

We can't afford to do everything, and we know every budget decision affects people differently. That's why our priorities need to be informed by you.

This is just the start of the conversation.

There will be further opportunities to have your say on our next Long-term Plan later this year and as part of our formal consultation process in early 2027.

What's a Long-term Plan (LTP)?

Every three years, Council has to prepare an LTP. This plan sets out what we are going to spend and deliver, including the things we're legislatively required to do, over the next ten years with a sharp focus on years 1-3. The LTP also sets out the likely impact on your rates.

**Come and talk
to us!**

Webinar

- Monday 29 June, 6pm to 7pm, register online via Zoom at haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/LTP27-37/Prioritise-Kapiti-Webinar

Prioritise Kāpiti Events

- Saturday 4 July, 10.30am to 12.30pm, Ōtaki Memorial Hall, 69 Main Street
- Wednesday 15 July, 6pm to 8pm, Paraparaumu Library, 9 Iver Trask Place

Pop ups

- Wednesday 1 July, 10am to 12noon, Waikanae Library, 9 Mahara Place
- Friday 3 July, 9am to 11am, 19 Raumati Road, Raumati
- Monday 13 July, 10.30am to 12.30pm, Paraparaumu, lounge area across from Rosetta Café at Coastlands Shopping Centre
- Wednesday 15 July, 10.30am to 12.30pm, lounge area by Rosette Café at Coastlands Shopping Centre, Paraparaumu
- Friday 17 July, 10.30am to 12.30pm, lounge area by Rosette Café inside Coastlands Shopping Centre, Paraparaumu
- Saturday 18 July, 10am to 12noon, Paekākāriki Library (situated in the Paekākāriki Tennis Club), 14 Wellington Road, Paekākāriki



Feedback closes midnight,
Sunday 26 July

haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz

our priorities right?

Our proposed priorities

We're proposing eight community priorities to help shape our Long-term Plan:

Housing	Finding a home that's affordable, accessible, and right for people's needs is already a challenge for many in Kāpiti. But it's not just about building more homes - it's about the types of homes and making sure they're in the right places, supported by the right infrastructure, and shaped around local needs.
Health	Good health starts with the basics - safe water, warm homes, access to local services, places to be active, and communities where people feel connected and supported. Our community expects these services and we need to advocate for them.
Connected communities	Feeling connected is part of what makes a place feel like home. As Kāpiti changes, we need to make sure people have places, spaces, and opportunities to meet, take part, and feel they belong.
Peace, safety and equality	Feeling safe in our community, and prepared for an emergency, is part of what makes Kāpiti a great place to live. As our district grows and changes, we want our centres, beaches, parks, roads, and shared spaces to stay welcoming, well cared for, and easy to enjoy.
Land use	How we use land affects everyday life in Kāpiti - where people live, how they move around, where businesses can grow, and how easy it is to access parks, services, and community facilities.
Waters	Water is one of the most important services we provide. Every day, our communities rely on safe drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems to support public health, local growth, and the environment.
Working with others	Many of the things that matter to Kāpiti need more than Council working alone. Some local issues sit with government agencies, community organisations, mana whenua, businesses, or other partners - and sometimes the best results come when we work together.
Shaping our direction together	Council decisions affect everyday life in Kāpiti - the services people use, the places we invest in, how rates are spent, and how we plan for the future. We can't do everything at once which is why it is important that people understand the choices in front of us, what they cost, and how decisions are made.

Our proposed planning principles

Our five proposed planning principles support a practical plan and budget that focuses on what matters most and keeps costs down where possible. They'll also ensure we make the best use of the rates, fees, funding, and assets Council already has, while finding ways to do more with what we already have.

- Community voice
- Growth pays for growth
- User pays where it makes sense
- Live within our financial limits
- Prioritise the must-dos

Have your say!

Feedback closes midnight, Sunday 26 July

Online

- Scan the QR code or visit our website and complete our survey
- Email us at haveyoursay@kapiticoast.govt.nz



In person

- Attend one of our events listed on the previous page

On paper

- Visit one of our libraries or service centres to complete a submission form - place it in one of the boxes or post it to Kāpiti Coast District Council, Private Bag 60601, Paraparaumu 5254



HUATAU/Opinion

HE TIROHANGA HOU: HENITI BUICK

Feedback sought as council focus shifts to Long-Term Plan

June has been another busy month around the council table, with much of our focus shifting from the Annual Plan to the development of council's next Long-Term Plan (LTP).

Many of you will have heard discussion about council amalgamation over recent months. I attended Te Kāhui Whakarehunga – the iwi, mayor and chair forum – where this continues to be a key topic of conversation across the region. While the community survey on amalgamation closed on June 30, there will be further opportunities for our community to have a say on the future direction of local government.

The next major piece of work is the Long-Term Plan. Put simply, the LTP is council's roadmap for the next 10 years. It sets out what services, projects and investments council intends to deliver, how much they will cost, and how they will be

funded. Importantly, it's one of the most significant opportunities our community has to influence council priorities.

At a time when resources are limited and competing demands continue to grow, the LTP allows communities like Ōtaki to clearly articulate what matters most to us. Whether it's infrastructure, housing, recreation, environmental protection, transport, community facilities, economic development, or support for our most vulnerable whānau, the LTP consultation process is our opportunity to help shape where council directs its efforts and investment over the coming decade.

Council will also be holding sector-specific conversations as part of the LTP process. These discussions will help gather insights from community organisations, businesses, iwi, sporting groups, social service providers and other



stakeholders to better understand local priorities and aspirations.

If you want to learn more or share your views, council is hosting a pop-up community consultation forum at Ōtaki Memorial

Hall 10.30am-12.20pm on Saturday, July 4. I urge anyone interested in the future of Ōtaki and the wider district to come along, ask questions and contribute to the conversation.

Closer to home, it was great to see the Ōtaki Community Board continue its support for a range of local initiatives this month. Funding was approved for several community representatives competing in basketball and waka ama, alongside support for local not-for-profit kaupapa that continue to make a positive difference in our community.

Looking ahead, I encourage everyone to get involved in Matariki on Moana on Friday, July 11. This event has become a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together, celebrate Matariki and reflect on the year that has passed while looking forward to the year ahead.

Finally, residents may notice activity on Tasman Road as council commissions a new bore to replace an existing decommissioned water source. Works are expected to take 12-14 weeks. While there will be temporary speed restrictions and footpath diversions, two-way traffic will remain open throughout the project.

As always, thank you for your engagement and interest in our community. If you have thoughts on what should be prioritised in the next Long-Term Plan, I encourage you to get involved and make your voice heard. Mānawatia a Matariki!

■ Heniti is the Ōtaki Ward councillor

CAM'S CORNER: CAM BUTLER

Hoping no jinx on works end

Revocation done

By the time of publication the revocation work down Old SH1 will be finished. Or have I just jinxed it by stating that? Better not have.

The last section of resealing and line marking has been done and only minor tidying up to go! It is acknowledged that the works have been disruptive, with one shop choosing to stay closed for a week while kerbing and footpath works were happening at their front door.

The end result of the revocation is a much improved and pedestrian-friendly shopping area that will improve the experience for locals and out-of-town shoppers alike.

This area and right down to the Peka Peka roundabout will be then handed over from Waka Kotahi to KCDC – it will no longer be technically a state highway and become a local road instead. The roads need to be renamed and, no, it can't be Old SH1. It has taken nearly eight years for the renaming of the Kāpiti expressway so let's see if we can do it faster than that!

The wastewater pipe part 2 – Rāhui Rd

The contractor has not been assigned.

Welcome to Ōtaki

Is there a designer out there that could help design "Welcome to Ōtaki/Nau mai ki Ōtaki" signs? The community board is working on something...

Speed management

Our lovely community does have problems with people speeding in their vehicles, making it unsafe for other road users. As

part of the latest speed management review a number of improvements have been put forward and approved for potential implementation.



These will come out to the community soon. Some are technicalities about extending the urban 50km/h area so all new roads created in that area default to 50km/h instead of 100km/h – others are

true safety improvements.

Current work on Waerenga Road is to raise both the school and college pedestrian crossings just like the crossings on Mill Road. The crossing near Lemon Street is also getting some kerb and footpath improvements at the same time. Waerenga has been by far the most complained about street in Ōtaki regarding speeding vehicles, so we are looking forward to seeing people slow down.

Fighting for the kite festival

With pressure to keep rates down, one of the victims of cost pressures has been shrinkage of the Major Events Fund, which has helped support the Ōtaki Kite Festival for many years. With the funding panel looking to massively reduce the funding for the kite festival I had a kōrero with the mayor and to her credit she was very keen to retain the festival. I am pleased to see that \$20,000 has been allocated for 2027.

- Like Ōtaki Community Board on Facebook
- Next Ōtaki Community Board meeting 7pm Tuesday, July 21.

■ Cam is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board

EYE ON WAIKANAĒ: MICHAEL MOORE

Why investing in community matters

One of the great strengths of living on the Kāpiti Coast is that we are part of a community.

While we each have our own homes, families, interests and daily routines, we also share something important: the infrastructure, services and public spaces that help make our district such a wonderful place to live.

Communities thrive when we all contribute to the things that benefit everyone. Through rates and other forms of public investment, we help build and maintain the facilities that support our quality of life, not just for ourselves, but for future generations as well.

In recent years, our district has made significant investments in essential infrastructure. Water purification upgrades and new reservoirs in Ōtaki and Waikanae are excellent examples. These projects might not always be visible in our daily lives, but they are vital. Safe, reliable drinking water and secure, resilient water supplies are fundamental services that protect public health and ensure resilience for years to come.

We have also continued to invest in recreational facilities that bring people together and encourage healthy, active lifestyles. New and upgraded community playgrounds throughout the district provide places where families can gather, children can play, and friendships can grow.

A particularly exciting recent addition is the new skatepark at Waikanae Park. What makes this project especially meaningful is the substantial input provided by its younger users during the design process. Their ideas and feedback helped shape a facility that reflects the needs and aspirations of the people who will use it most.

The skatepark will offer enjoyment, challenge and opportunities for social connection for many years to come.

The adjoining playground is also set to receive an upgrade over the coming months, further enhancing this popular community space and creating an even better environment for local families.

Looking ahead, the new Waikanae Library, Te Ara Whetū, currently under construction,

will become a wonderful community hub when it opens over the summer. Modern libraries are far more than places to borrow books.

They are welcoming spaces for learning, creativity, community events and social connection. Te Ara Whetū will be a valuable asset for residents of all ages.

When we contribute to shared services and infrastructure, we are investing in ourselves and in one another.

These projects strengthen our communities, improve our quality of life and help ensure that the Kāpiti Coast remains an enjoyable, vibrant and attractive place to live. By working together and supporting these investments, we all share in the benefits.

- You can follow my regular updates on Facebook: [tinyurl.com/MikeMooreKCDC](https://www.facebook.com/MikeMooreKCDC)

- Next open public forum: 6.30pm Tuesday, July 28 Waikanae Community Centre

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

■ Michael is a member of the Waikanae Community Board



THE ELECTORATE: TIM COSTLEY

A lot to be positive about as Ōtaki's big-win stories add up

I love our town and I'm proud to share some more local stories of the consistent progress we're making for our local community in Ōtaki.

The years since Covid haven't been easy. Those big price increases from 2021-23 still hurt today, but there is a lot to be positive about. I want to share some encouraging local stories this month.

Our local schools just got a big funding boost. As of July 1, Waitohu, Ōtaki, and Te Horo schools all received a significant funding boost for their property – about 50% extra. This is a real win as it allows the schools to put a lot more money into creating the best spaces for our children to learn and grow. It might be keeping

up with maintenance, improving heating and carpets, or sorting out the projects that have been delayed for a while, like outside spaces, but now there are more options on the table. And each school gets to choose how they prioritise it.

There have been health wins. Last month's Budget had extra funding for St Johns who look after us so well in Ōtaki. The new breast screen clinic is up and running every week in Waikanae for women aged 45-74, and we've extended bowel screening to everyone aged 56-74. We've also funded extra medications – including cancer



treatment – and this has gone to Ōtaki families. And a new and expanded cancer infusion clinic is being set up in Kāpiti so our local patients don't have to travel over an hour to Palmerston North or Wellington, but can get treatment closer to home. This is really important to me.

I recently shared the story of Grant and Diana at Kāpiti Olive Oil here in Ōtaki. They run a great family business. I ran an event in Parliament for all our local food and beverage sector, and as a result Kāpiti Olive Oil is now stocked in three more regional supermarkets. Elemental Cider also got picked up by a Wellington restaurant. I continue to support local businesses big or small,

and if you want me to visit yours, please just reach out.

Finally, it's great to see the visible progress on the new expressway to Levin. It's hard to miss it at the north end of town. After our big battle last year, we're now getting a full interchange at Taylors Road so you can get on and off heading north and south. That is a big local win and was a significant change from the original plan I had to fight hard for!

You often don't hear these stories but there are lots of little wins each week for people and businesses in our town. They slowly add up, and they truly make a difference. I'm proud to support Ōtaki and to serve as our local MP.

■ Tim is the Ōtaki electorate MP

When oil hits a tipping point of no return

If there's a silver lining to our collectively puckeroed outlook on so many things, it's that we're seeing a cascade of good tipping points.

A couple of examples of the things we've ignored for far too long, but can't any longer:

1. Oil and coal are black and usually buried deep in the ground. For a couple of hundred years, and more, we've busily dug it out and burnt it into the air.

JUST A THOUGHT



FRASER CARSON

2. Massive amounts of "free" energy waft all around us – far more than we could wish for. That's sunshine, water flows, wind, organic fuel and more.

One might ask, why on earth did we ever elect to release black stuff into the

atmosphere when it was never sustainable, and it's slowly killing us and the planet we live on.

The answer is simple economics and our apparent inability, or unwillingness, to harness alternative forms of energy.

A barrel of oil, as an international measure, cost less than US\$50 early this year. When Trump and Netanyahu decided to bomb Iran and the Strait of Hormuz closed in March, oil rocketed to US\$120 a barrel.

To give a rough idea of the energy available in a single barrel, it can power a New Zealand household for about two months.

So it's usually very cheap, simple to use, readily available, and easy to hold and transport – the average seagoing oil tanker can cart about



two million barrels to almost anywhere in the world, which is enough imported energy to power all New Zealand households for nearly two months, without using any other energy inputs.

This makes it difficult to justify looking elsewhere for energy, especially when one considers that a previous massive surge in oil prices (the 1973 oil embargo) saw a surge in EVs – yes, you read that correctly – only for that surge to collapse with the inevitable drop in oil prices.

I hazard a bet that, this time, it'll be different. Firstly, the international political scene is far more fractured. That's making fundamental shifts in how trade and exchange works, or doesn't work, especially for small countries like New Zealand.

One big shift is for countries to be more self-sustaining, and that includes alternative energy sources, which is abundant within most countries.

Then there's the technology improvements

in alternative energy and storage. For example, a battery pack cost more than US\$1000 per kilowatt-hour in 2010, but today it costs about US\$100 per kilowatt-hour.

All this means – with more efficient and longer lasting solar panels, electric vehicles, charging stations, biofuels, etc, coupled with better and cheaper storage – there's a cascading impact; increased demand pushes more production, which reduces cost, which creates



Recent Crude Oil prices –tradingeconomics.com

even more demand.

Think of it, why would anyone buy a petrol car if most people are in EVs and there's a charging station at every street corner and house?

While it would appear there's much less reason to revert back to black energy, even if the prices fall again, there are still far too many people, particularly certain politicians, who adhere to the "drill-baby-drill" mentality.

While there has been a rapidly increasing level of knowledge and investment in alternative energies, politicians have often been the last to catch on.

Almost understandably, governments have often sought to dampen the impacts of periodic oil price increases to keep inflation down. For example, in recent months, China and the US have released considerable quantities of reserve oil to fill some of the shortfalls, and many governments have domestically subsidised consumer petrol pump costs.

But this is simply throwing feathers into the tide of inevitable change.

Right now, it looks like the Strait of Hormuz is opening, or is it? Even if it does open and the flow of oil picks up quickly, the tipping point is obvious. Governments and citizens are realising that having a blind dependency on black energy is not a good idea and that a self-determining and sustainable way forward is needed.

Let's remember that the oil price has stayed surprisingly low in recent months, but when the Chinese and US oil reserves run out and the Iranians permanently slap a toll on all shipping, we may see an even bigger spike.

That's a tipping point of no return.

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



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Ōtaki Community Patrol

Dear residents of the greater Ōtaki region,
We would like to invite you to our upcoming Public Meeting.
We want to provide an update to the community around the future continuation and potential closure of the Ōtaki Community Patrol.

MEETING DETAILS:

Date: Tuesday 14th July, 2026
Time: 6:30PM – 7:30PM
Location: Ōtaki Memorial Hall Supper Room

AGENDA:

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Update about the current Ōtaki Community Patrol situation
3. Moving forward – what this currently looks like
4. Open Forum for Questions from the community
5. Closing remarks

Your participation is welcome.

Join us to stay informed and voice your opinions.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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No booking or registration needed

MAHI MĀRA/Gardening



Go along the cordons and prune shoots back to 2-5 buds.



Grapes will always fruit on new wood.



A greenhouse vine growing on a single leader without cordons.

Divine ways to prune your grapes

Grapevines have a tonne of vigour and left to their own devices take over the garden – next stop the world!

The good news is that grapes fruit on new season's wood, and therefore can be pruned back hard without compromising next season's crop.

So if yours has left its trellis for dust and is a jumble of shoots – get stuck into it.

If pruned annually, grapes are a quick, easy job.

A sound structure

Grapes are super malleable and can be trained as per vineyards – with sidearms (cordons) that come off a central leader. Or they can be trained as one long leader without sidearms – a great option in a narrow space.

Before the pruning comes a robust structure to train your grape to. Full-grown grapes are weighty. They need heavy, galvanised wire attached to well-anchored posts or an existing wall or fence. A wooden trellis is a total pain at pruning. You have to unwind all the shoots – in and out and round-about, before pruning.

Leave generous gaps (40-50cm) between each row of your

structure, and between the ground and the first wire for awesome light distribution and airflow. If you are training your grape above a covered deck, be sure of the same generous gap between the roof and the grape.

Start with the leader

The leader is the main stem. It starts at the ground and goes all the way to the top/end, of your structure. Choose the strongest, best placed shoot, that is, the one that fits your structure, to be the leader. Prune all other leaders off at their base.

Grape wood dries back and shrinks after cutting, so leave about a centimetre of wood above the cut.

Then prune the cordons

In the same way you want only one leader, you want only one cordon (side arm) per wire. Choose the strongest, best placed cordons to keep, and remove all others

Next, go along each cordon pruning off excess shoots to create a 10cm gap between each one. The most productive shoots are pencil-sized in diameter – keep these. Remove the broken, thin, spindly, or fat ones.



- Cut chosen shoots back to 2-5 good buds, or at the point where it becomes spindly.
- Cut the ends of the cordon back to a bud, to fit your frame. There is no advantage to letting it scramble and tangle.

Cordons occasionally lose their mojo. When productivity wanes, cut a cordon off. As long as it's bathed in light, a new shoot (or two) will come the next spring. As always, choose the healthiest one, close to the wire (below it is ideal), and remove any others.

Restoring crazy, vines

If you've inherited a grape that's super tangled and gotten seriously out of hand, hit refresh, and start again. Peel or cut the grape off its structure so you can see it clearly. Either choose the strongest, best placed leader and cut everything else off it, or cut it right back to a 30cm stump.

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



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The sales pitch pedalling pseudoscience

Many alternative-therapy devices use scientific-sounding terminology in ways that are misleading, scientifically incoherent, or outright impossible.

They borrow the vocabulary of science to



DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

imply legitimacy and create the impression of advanced technology while using those terms in ways that have no scientific meaning.

Bioptron's Hyperlight Therapy is a classic example.

According to its promoters, it can soothe aching joints, lift mood, calm inflammation, restore sleep, sharpen vision, balance hormones, provide immune support, and even slow ageing – a therapeutic reach that spans nearly every system in the body.

Treatment doesn't come cheap though. The small hand-held lamp with accessories will set you back nearly \$4000, the lamp-stand version tops \$7000, and the professional unit pushes past \$16,000.

According to their sales blurb, the device uses unique "Tesla Quantum Nanophotonic Optics" to produce "Quantum Hyperlight".

It's time to look at the science and see how that holds up.

The hand-held MedAll unit is built around a perfectly ordinary Osram 20-watt halogen bulb – a standard off-the-shelf lamp. There's nothing technically distinctive or specialised about the light source itself.

The light is then reflected off a mirror to produce vertically linearly polarised light, meaning the travelling light waves now oscillate in a single vertical direction. Bioptron claims that this light has special properties capable of restoring "disordered biological processes" to



their "optimal functional state". There are many things wrong with this claim, apart from the fact it is so vague and undefined it has no scientific meaning.

First, polarised light isn't rare, exotic, or inherently therapeutic. Everyday sources of vertically polarised light include TV, computer, and phone screens, yet no one suggests the light from these devices has healing properties.

Polarised sunglasses filter out horizontally polarised glare and leave you with vertically linearly polarised light. They make driving and outdoor visibility easier, but no one treats the transmitted light as having any special therapeutic significance.

And ordinary unpolarised light isn't empty of polarisation; it's simply a jumble of photons oscillating in all possible directions with no preferred orientation. Every household lamp already emits light that includes a vertical orientation, yet no one believes their bedside lamp has special powers.

And while Bioptron's instructions tell users to hold the lamp square-on and 10cm from the body to ensure a consistent dose, they say nothing about rotational alignment. Tilt the lamp and the "vertical" polarisation

tilts with it; turn it sideways and it becomes horizontally polarised. If vertical polarisation mattered, the lamp and the user would need to maintain a strict alignment. In the marketing, vertical polarisation is presented as an essential therapeutic feature; in practice, it's ignored – which tells you everything about its relevance.

In any case, on hitting the skin, polarised light is scrambled by scattering, reverting to ordinary unpolarised light.

No credible clinical evidence is provided for the superiority of Bioptron's vertically polarised light. Charging thousands of dollars for an ordinary light source would be a stretch, but branding it as "vertically linearly polarised light" sounds scientific enough to justify the price.

The lamps are promoted as certified medical devices under the Medical Device Directive 93/42/EEC, and while that might look impressive to customers, it's a European certification primarily of quality control and safety – not a scientific assessment or a certification of therapeutic benefit or clinical effectiveness.

Bioptron's flagship feature is their supplementary fullerene "nanophotonic" lens, which they claim converts their linearly

polarised light into "hyperpolarised light" (aka "quantum hyperlight") – a "unique revolutionary feature in healing light technology". But hyperpolarised light is not a recognised term in optical physics, and Bioptron's own description of it as containing a mixture of horizontal and vertical polarisations is, ironically, not hyperpolarisation at all, but simply depolarised light.

Time to test their claim.

I pass 99.9 percent linearly polarised light through a Bioptron fullerene lens, and what emerges is still 99.9% linearly polarised – no measurable change within the detection limits of my setup using standard polarisation-measurement methods. In other words, the lens produces no observable conversion into any new polarisation state.

"Quantum hyperlight" is marketing language with no basis in optical physics.

There's no shortage of products that appropriate scientific terminology to sell a story. Take the so-called "Quantum Magnetic Resonance Analyzer". Despite the impressive name, it doesn't analyse magnetic resonance at all. It's nothing more than a skin-resistance meter dressed up in jargon, producing a bogus computer-generated health diagnosis – pure pseudoscience.

The pattern is consistent: strip scientific vocabulary of its meaning and repurpose it as marketing. The above examples are obvious cases, but the same tactic appears in more subtle forms – phrases like "clinically tested" used without context, misleading scientific jargon like "cellular detoxification", or vague function words such as "supports", "boosts", "enhances", and "balances" (for example, "balances liver function"). These terms are frequently used to make persuasive pseudoscientific claims.

If you're not careful, you can be blinded by pseudoscience.

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

Breakthrough technology makes AI more energy efficient

Artificial intelligence may soon become much more energy efficient thanks to a breakthrough at the University of Cambridge.

Scientists have developed a brain-inspired computer chip that mimics the way neurons process information. Unlike conventional

computer chips, which constantly move data between memory and processors, the new device performs both tasks simultaneously.

The innovation uses a modified form of the material hafnium oxide to create a nanoelectronic device capable of dramatically reducing

power consumption. Researchers estimate the technology could lower the energy needed to run AI systems by as much as 70 percent.

As artificial intelligence becomes more widely used in everything from smartphones to medical diagnosis and scientific research,

reducing its enormous electricity demands is becoming increasingly important.

Although the technology is still in the research stage, scientists believe it could lead to faster, more sustainable AI systems and extend battery life in portable devices.

WHERE TO FIND THE PAPER

Ōtaki Today has news stands at RiverStone Café, Ōtaki New World, Watson's Garden, Ōtaki Library, Café SixtySix, Manakau Market, Sponge Kitchen Levin, Waikanae Library, Olive Grove Cafe Waikanae, and Paraparaumu Library. It is also available at several other outlets, including The Big Egg, Sunlong, Arohanui Op Shop, and The Nest.

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Work done – did you get a quote?

One of our more common enquiries is about when trade jobs don't go the way people like.

A few things we ask clients include: Did you get a quote? Ideally, engaging a tradie begins with a quote. If there's additional work during the job, ask for that to be quoted before agreeing to it. A quote (not an estimate) is legally binding. Your final invoice should have no surprises. If you don't get a quote, you still have the right to be charged a fair and reasonable amount.

GOOD ADVICE



MARIA FYVIE

How did you pay? Do it via internet banking, not in cash. This gives you a record of what you paid, when and to whom.

What did you ask to be done and was it done? Be clear in your expectations from the start and understand any limits your tradie lays out for you. Writing down what you want might help define the project.

If you're unhappy with any work, bring it up when you notice it, ideally before you pay the final invoice. Then work together to agree on a resolution. You can begin the conversation with a call, but follow up with an email outlining what you believe you've agreed to – having this in writing means expectations are clear.

At the end of the job, if the total invoice is more than you expected, you can ask for it to be itemised or explained. Be clear about what you want explained – “your invoice is too much, I'm not paying that” is what you think, but “your invoice is more than your quote and I don't understand why” opens up a conversation. If you haven't got a quote, you still have a right to be charged a fair and reasonable price under the Consumer Guarantees Act – get an idea of what is fair by comparing estimates or quotes from other tradies.

If you've got to the point of making a complaint, start with the tradie or their company. Lay out your evidence, relevant law and clearly state what you want them to do, by when. Try to be specific, reasonable and factual. Follow up a conversation with an email. You might have to go through their company's formal complaints process.

If you can't come to a resolution, the tradie may belong to an industry body or disputes resolution service that has a complaints process – this might be on their website and/or quotes and invoices.

If they don't, you might be able to make an application to the Disputes Tribunal

• To find out more, visit 65a Main Street, 10am-1pm Monday-Friday, call 06 364 8664 or see CAB.org.nz and search 'consumer rights'.

■ Maria is secretary of Kāpiti CAB

No will – who inherits assets?

Imagine your life's work – your home, your savings, your treasured belongings.

Now, imagine a stranger dividing it all up based on a rigid, one-size-fits-all rulebook written decades ago. That's exactly what happens when you die without a will in New Zealand. You don't get a say – the law does.

When you don't have a will, the law steps in with its own default plan. It's a process called intestacy, and it rarely matches what people would have actually wanted. This can create unexpected and heartbreaking outcomes for the people you leave behind.

A few of the surprises that could be in store for your family:

- Your partner doesn't get everything. This is the biggest shock for most people. If you have children, your partner gets only your personal things (like cars and furniture), a cash payment, and a share of the rest. The other share is legally locked away for your children. This could force the sale of the family home or cause serious hardship for your partner at the worst possible time.

- Your parents could inherit. If you have a partner but no children, you might assume your partner gets everything. Not necessarily. If your parents are still alive, the law might decide they get a cut of your assets, which can create awkward and difficult situations.

- The court chooses a guardian for your kids. A will is the only place where you can name who you want to look after your children if you're gone. Without one, the decision is left up to the Family Court.
- Your assets could go to the government. If you have no surviving relatives that fit the law's narrow criteria, your entire estate goes to the Crown.

A will is more than a legal document; it's your instruction manual for looking after the people you love. Working with a lawyer is the safest way to ensure your instructions are clear and enforceable.

Here's how a lawyer makes it simple:

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- We listen to what you want. Your family situation is unique. We help you create a plan that works for you, whether you have a blended family, a business, or specific gifts you want to leave.

- We handle the tricky stuff. If you have a family trust or complex assets, we make sure your will works with them seamlessly to avoid problems down the line.
- We ensure it's done right. DIY wills are risky and often contain

simple mistakes that can make them invalid. We work with you to ensure every legal box is ticked so your will is 100 percent enforceable.

Take control of your legacy

Don't leave your family's future to a default government plan. Experienced lawyers can provide clear, plain-English advice to help you draft a will that protects your assets and reflects your wishes. We make the complex simple, ensuring your estate planning is a straightforward and effective process.

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

Build a business that doesn't need you

There's a version of your business that runs without you.

Not forever. Not without leadership. But for a week. A fortnight. Long enough that you could take a proper holiday, attend your kid's sports day, or simply stop being the person whose phone doesn't go quiet before 7am.

Most business owners in the Kāpiti region – in trades, construction, professional services, engineering – have built something impressive. Real revenue. Real staff. Real clients who rely on them.

And real dependency. Every decision flows through the owner. Every problem lands on the owner's desk. Every team member who hits a wall turns around and walks back to the person who started it all.

That person is you. And here's the uncomfortable truth: you built it that way.

Not on purpose. Not lazily. You built it through competence – by being the best at what you do, by being reliable when others weren't, by solving problems faster than anyone else on your team.

But what got you to \$3 million doesn't get you to \$5 million. At some point, your presence stops being your greatest asset and starts being your greatest constraint.

I see it constantly with business owners throughout Kāpiti and beyond. They've grown a genuinely good business. But somewhere

between \$3 million and \$5 million in revenue, growth stalls. Not because the market dried up. Not because the team isn't capable, but because the owner has become the operating system.

Every system, every decision, every standard – it all runs through one person. And one person can only do so much. The business can't grow faster than the owner can personally process it.

This is what I call the \$3-5 million wall. And it's not a business problem. It's a structural problem.

Let me be clear about what I'm not saying. A self-managing business doesn't mean the owner disappears. It doesn't mean handing over control to people who aren't ready. It doesn't mean hoping your team figures it out.

It means building the systems, the rhythm, and the decision-making structure that lets your business operate – consistently, to your standards – without needing you in the room for every call. It means your team knows what good looks like, knows how to handle the common problems, and knows when to escalate versus when to just get on with it.

It means you can go on holiday and come

YOUR BUSINESS



CHRIS WHELAN

back to a business that ran, not one that waited.

This is achievable. I've seen owners build it. Not by hiring a GM and hoping for the best. By being intentional – about how decisions get made, how the team is led, how performance is tracked, how work gets delivered.

The structure is learnable. The transition is manageable. But it starts with one honest question.

If your business stopped for a week because you were unavailable – genuinely unavailable – what would break? Write it down. Be specific.

Because what you write down is your work. That's the list of things that still depend on you when they shouldn't.

Every item on that list is a lever. Fix the lever, and you move closer to a business that doesn't need you to be everywhere.

That's the goal. Not less work, but different work. The work of an owner, not an operator.

The business that runs without you is the business that's actually worth something.

It's also the one that gives you your life back.

■ Chris is a business and leadership coach based in the Wellington region. For more, visit chrishwhelancoaching.com



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

Dawsons offer captivating adventures

Captivate Adventures is celebrating 21 years in the business of taking people to some of the Kāpiti Coast’s most spectacular natural environments – from rafting the Ōtaki River to rock climbing, abseiling and outdoor challenges.

Owners Pete and Simone Dawson have grown the business over the years, drawing from a lifelong connection with the outdoors and a desire to share those experiences.

While Simone brings a degree in parks recreation, plus tourism management, to the business, Pete is more “hands-on”. It’s a synergy that works well for them.

Pete developed a passion for the outdoors through summer camps at Riverslea Lodge, Ōtaki Gorge, as a teenager.

“That was where I got into the outdoors,” he says. “I ended up doing an outdoor course, went back there for work experience, and they offered me a job at the end of the course.”

While working at Riverslea, he helped expand its outdoor activities, eventually setting up a business operating from the lodge using its equipment. After several years away overseas, he and Simone returned to New Zealand and found the opportunity to create what would become Captivate Adventures.

“We bought the gear and started running the business properly. That was the beginning.”

The company started in 2005 operating from Riverslea before moving to its current base in Ōtaki Gorge, where it has become closely associated with the river and surrounding landscape.

Today, Captivate’s core business is school groups, with outdoor education making up much of the year’s calendar.

“Schools are our bread and butter,” Pete says. “They book ahead, often for the next year, so we know we’re going to be busy.”

The company also caters for corporate groups, team-building activities, family groups, tourists – including cruise ships – and specialist training programmes. In recent years, Captivate has provided outdoor safety training for organisations such as regional councils and water-related industries.

A big part of the operation is ensuring safety standards are met. Captivate operates under

New Zealand’s adventure activity regulations, requiring detailed procedures, audits and regular reviews.

“It’s quite involved,” Simone says. “You have to prove your systems are right and that you’re doing what you say you’re doing.”

While the paperwork has increased, she says the fundamentals of running safe activities have remained the same.

“We haven’t had to change a lot of what we do. We were doing it right to start with – we’ve just got a lot more documentation behind it.”

Ōtaki River remains the star attraction, with the gorge offering an experience that compares with anywhere in the country.

“It’s incredibly beautiful,” she says. “If you talk to anyone involved in rafting around New Zealand, it’s definitely one of the premier spots.”

The river environment has also changed over time as the native bush has regenerated

“You can see the hills have become covered in bush again. It’s incredible watching the trees come back.”

Rafting is the company’s most popular activity for visitors, helped by the fact it is accessible to a wide range of ages and abilities.

Pete says the oldest person they’ve had was 92, but the activities are enjoyed by everyone from younger kids through to older groups.

Captivate’s rafting trips generally run for about three hours, with about 90 minutes to two hours spent on the water. Equipment is supplied, including wetsuits and safety gear.

Another unique offering is night rafting, which makes a trip through the gorge’s hidden natural beauty a special treat.

“We try to do it in the dark rather than just at dusk,” Pete says. “There are millions of glow worms down there.”

That kind of adventure makes Pete and Simone almost as happy as their clients.

“It’s about creating experiences people remember,” Pete says.

■ See captivate.net.nz



Whitewater rafting with Captivate Adventures on Ōtaki River. Photo supplied



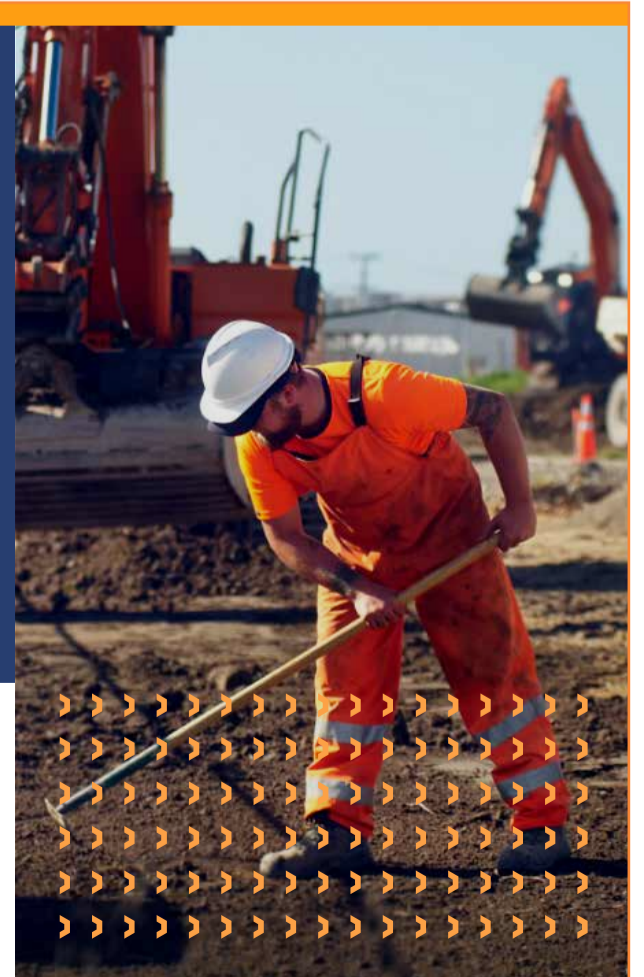
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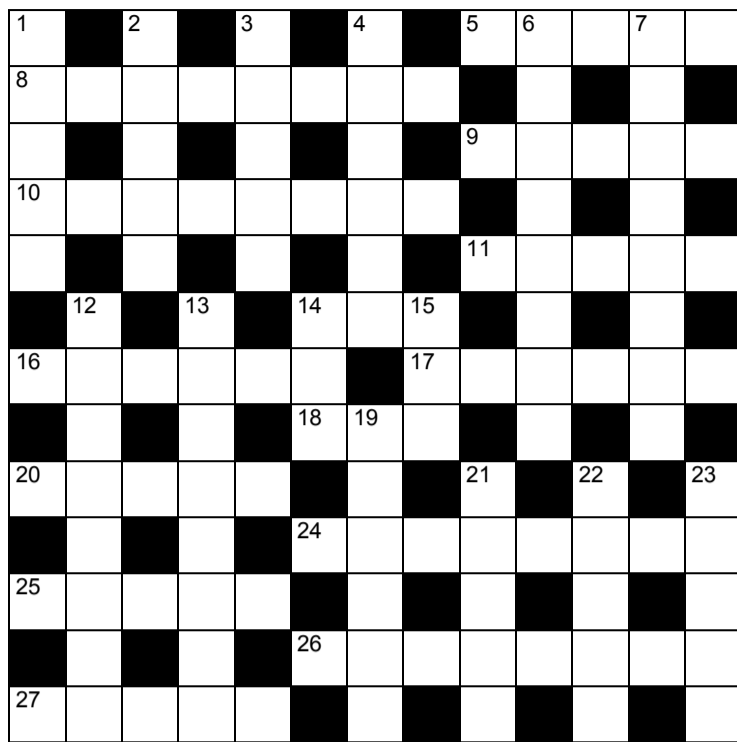
Ōtaki Yesterday

Ōtaki's historical magazine 2025, featuring stories about the people and places of old Ōtaki, **can be purchased now.** All issues 1-5 are also available
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THE CROSSWORD #NZ1961B (answers below)



- ACROSS**
- 5 Silly (colloq) (5)
 - 8 NZ reality show from 2012-2022 hosted by Mark Richardson (3,5)
 - 9 Type of coffee (5)
 - 10 Go sightseeing or take a roundabout route (colloq) (4,4)
 - 11 Wild (5)
 - 14 Inquire (3)
 - 16 Dutchman, born 1603, whose name is on many South Island locations (6)
 - 17 World's most southerly active volcano (6)
 - 18 Signature work of a graffiti artist (3)
 - 20 Hit hard (5)
 - 24 Blameless (8)
 - 25 Formal gathering place in Māori culture (5)
 - 26 John _____, Auckland politician who donated Cornwall Park to the city (8)
- DOWN**
- 1 Nation, country (5)
 - 2 Irritating (5)
 - 3 Fabric (5)
 - 4 NZ youth organisation that began in NZ about 1908 (6)
 - 6 Meter showing distance travelled (8)
 - 7 The Tui brewery at Mangatainoka is near this town (8)
 - 12 Queue of traffic (8)
 - 13 Cut off (8)
 - 14 Colony insect (3)
 - 15 Beer barrel (3)
 - 19 Yearly (6)
 - 21 ACC payment (colloq) (5)
 - 22 Push back, resist (5)
 - 23 Coral island (5)

WORLD FASHION QUIZ
Answers below.

1. Who is seen as the most famous female American fashion icon of the 1960s?
2. Who invented the LBD (little black dress)?
3. Parkers, trenches, bombers and peas are types of what winter wear?
4. What fashion fad did the 1983 film *Flashdance* make popular?
5. Fashion designer Gianni Versace came from which country?
6. What year was the company Nike founded?
7. What animal is on Levi's logo?
8. Which fashion brand made the "genius jeans" that became part of the Guinness World Records?
9. What is the name of the red carpet event where celebrities showcase their designer outfits, often considered the Oscars of fashion?
10. In the fashion world, what does "haute couture" refer to?
11. What is the traditional Scottish fabric pattern often seen in kilts and other clothing items?
12. Which Italian fashion designer is famous for his colourful, bold prints, particularly in silk scarves?



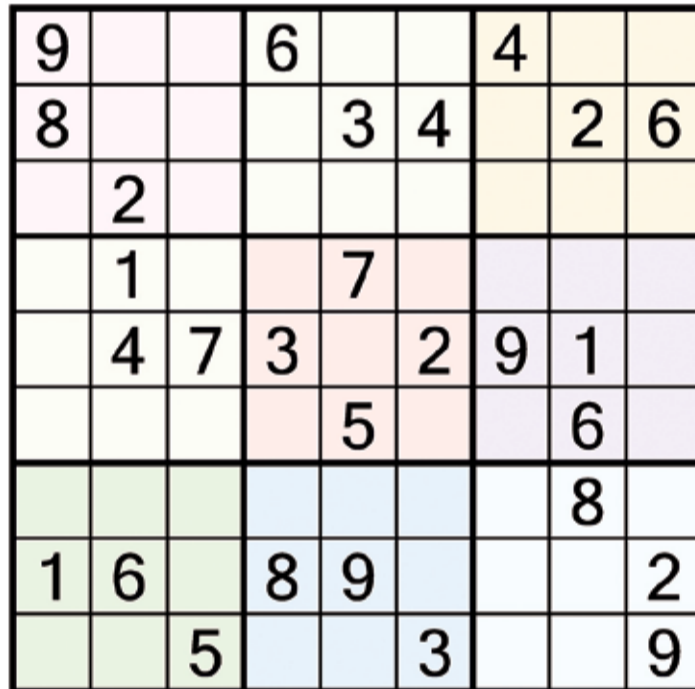
Ōtaki River entrance tides
July 3 – 31

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

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

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

SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz
EASY #103E 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.



WORLD FASHION QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Jacqueline Kennedy. 2. Coco Chanel. 3. Coats. 4. Legwarmers. 5. Italy. 6. 1971. 7. Horse. 8. Gucci. 9. The Met Gala. 10. High-end, custom-made fashion. 11. Tartan or plaid. 12. Emilio Pucci.

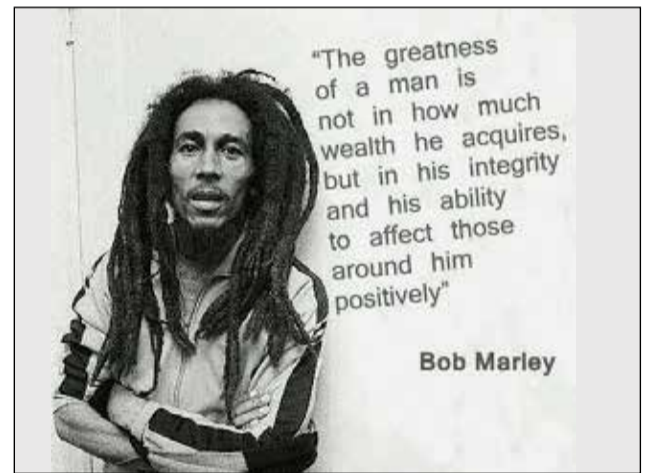
CROSSWORD #1961B ANSWERS
ACROSS: 5. Loopy, 8. The Block, 9. Mocha, 10. Tiki tour, 11. Feral, 14. Ask, 16. Tasman, 17. Erebus, 18. Tag, 20. Clout, 24. Innocent, 25. Marae, 26. Campbell, 27. Skier.
DOWN: 1. State, 2. Pesky, 3. Cloth, 4. Scouts, 6. Odometer, 7. Pahiatua, 12. Tailback, 13. Amputate, 14. Ant, 15. Keg, 19. Annual, 21. Compo, 22. Repel, 23. Atoll.

SUDOKU SOLUTION #103E

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

DEATHS

CLARK Margaret.
On June 6, 2026 peacefully (after a long illness) aged 86 years. Dearly loved wife of the late Leslie Clark. Dearly loved mother and mother-in-law of John and Candace (Chicago, USA), Alan and Michele (Australia), and Alison (New Zealand). Cherished and admired grandma of Taylor, Ceili, Nico, Isabella. Loved sister and sister-in-law of Marion and Bill Matheson. Beyond her family, Margaret also gave her time to many others through her involvement in the Save The Children Fund work, leadership as Akela in Cub Scouts, and teaching at various post-secondary schools. A private cremation has been held. A memorial service for Margaret will be advised at a later date. Forrest Funeral Service, Auckland.



A fool finds no pleasure in understanding, but delights in airing his own opinions.
Proverbs 18-2

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TAKĀRO/Sport

Rāhui on the ropes

By Frank Neill and Ian Carson

A 50-24 defeat against Levin Wanderers on June 27 has not helped as Rāhui's hopes of Horowhenua-Kāpiti premier finals rugby slip away.

Before the weekend Rāhui were just one point behind Wanderers and needed a solid win to leapfrog the Levin team into the top four. It wasn't to be, with Rāhui remaining at No 5 on the table, just above a luckless Levin College Old Boys, who were thumped 83-17 at the weekend by Waikanae to remain at the bottom of the table.

Foxton stayed streets ahead at the top of the Ramsbotham Cup competition after beating Paraparaumu 39-27 in a home game at Easton Park. Foxton has only one loss from 14 games.

At least Rāhui retained the He Ringa Mākohakoha Taonga when they defeated COB 35-17 on June 13.

Playing at the Levin Domain, Rāhui scored five tries to three to dominate the match.

Leon Ellison had an outstanding game and was Rāhui's most valuable player. He also contributed to the scoring when he converted all five tries.

Piwiki Cook, Morehu Connor-Phillips, Nicholas Fleming, Sonsun



Dylan Winiata about to run past a would be tackler. Photo: Frank Neill.

Moananu and John Foxall all dotted down.

Rāhui would have had high hopes of defeating Waikanae at Ōtaki Domain on June 20 when they led the match 17-14 at half time. However, an early second-half scoring spree by Waikanae saw them win the match 38-29. Che Tahuri scored two tries for Rāhui and was named the team's

most valuable player. Others to dot down were Ted Northcote, Sonsun Moananu and Hayden Rasmussen. Alizay Roach kicked two conversions.

Foxton had a comfortable 31-17 win over Rāhui in the howling rain at Ōtaki on June 6. John Foxall scored two of Rāhui's tries, the other scored by Che Tahuri. Alizay Roach kicked one conversion.

Whiti silence Lions roar



Whiti's te Rā's Manawanui Rikihana in action.

Photo Frank Neill

By Frank Neill

Whiti te Rā ki Ōtaki played outstandingly to upset the Wainuiomata Lions in their rugby league match on June 20.

In doing so, Whiti moved to second on the premier Wellington Rugby League table ahead of the Lions, who were in second place before the match.

Playing on their home ground at Ōtaki Domain, Whiti led the closely contested encounter 18-12 at half time. They began the game strongly with Joel Winterburn scoring after just two minutes. Thereafter both teams scored at the same rate.

Teariki Peneha scored two tries. Atawhai Osborne, Lewis Marshall and Manaia Osborne also touched down. Aaron Taiapa kicked three conversions. The match saw Tungia Cooper celebrate his 100th cap for the premier team.

A week earlier Whiti recorded a convincing 32-18 victory over the Petone Panthers at McEwen Park.

After the Panthers scored first to lead 6-0, Whiti dominated the remainder of the match. Two players – Teariki Peneha and Aaron Whitikia – scored two tries, and Aaron kicked a conversion. Atawhai Osborne, Lewis Marshall and Manaia Osborne also dotted down and Aaron Taiapa kicked a conversion.

Whiti had a comfortable victory on June 6 over the Randwick Kingfishers, beating them 32-16.

After being 7-7 at the break, Whiti dominated the second spell, scoring 25 more points while Randwick scored just nine. Levi Kemp dotted down three times. Atawhai Osborne, Tungia Cooper, Ben Hanara and Mason Couchman also scored tries and Aaron Whitikia kicked two conversions.

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