

ŌTAKI TODAY

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TĪHEMA/DECEMBER 2025

Ngā kōrero o Ōtaki



Rotunda concerts line up

By Ian Carson

The rotunda at the old Children's Health Camp is likely to be hosting public concerts early in the new year.

The rotunda at the old Children's Health Camp is likely to be hosting public concerts early in the new year.

Performers are queuing up to play in the historic building, says Friends of Ōtaki Rotunda chair Di Buchan. And that's even though full completion of restoration work is still a year away.

"We have a lot of people who want to be here to perform," Di says. "It's a fabulous venue, not just because it's so historic, but also because it has fantastic acoustics."

"I can't wait to hear the first performance."

The Friends was established six years ago to restore the old building, which had fallen into disrepair after the health camp closed in 2018. It became a target for vandals, who smashed windows and doors. A leaking roof damaged the flooring, and given its age, several parts of the wooden building had rotted.

"Our goal was to re-create a beautiful space where the public could enjoy performances and activities of all kinds – music, theatre, dances, school activities – and a venue for meetings, and weddings and other special occasions," Di says. "We're not far off being able to open."

"It's now weatherproof and secure, so we can have events in the evening or at weekends while we carry on with what's still required."

Work during the past year has concentrated on replacing a wall, repairing the roof and windows, and removing unsightly rooms that had been added to the rotunda over the years.

Windows and their sashes were restored in the oculus (centre of the rotunda as seen in the photo at right), and heavy steel reinforcing added. Friends volunteers have spent many hours stripping and painting columns, walls and windows with heritage colours revealed under many layers of old paint.



Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda volunteer co-ordinator Stewart Fraser, left, chair Di Buchan, and specialist builder Rob Tilbrook under the oculus of the rotunda. Photo Ōtaki Today

The next big part of the project, which will take most of next year, will be repiling and restoring the matai flooring. Although much of it is still in good order, some will need replacing.

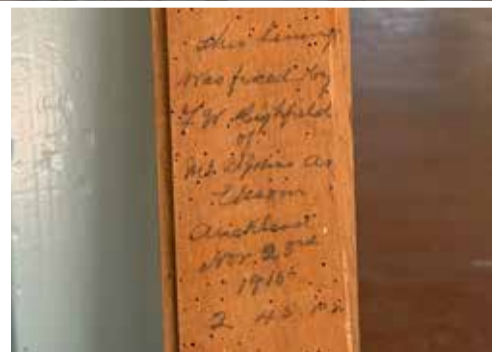
"Fortunately we've got plenty of old matai lengths from a Greytown supplier," says specialist builder Rob Tilbrook of Rare Building. "But what's under the floor is still a bit of an unknown."

"That includes some of the central piles."

Meanwhile, Stewart Fraser recently found the penciled writing of one of the rotunda's original builders on the back of a wooden panel (see photo at right).

It read: "This lining was fixed by F W Highfield of Mt St Johns Av, Epsom, Auckland. Nov 23rd, 1915, 2.45pm."

continues page 4



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Storm brewing as 2026 looms

The political climate is ripe for the development in 2026 of a classic months long government versus public service battle for support under the guise of the right of trade unions and equivalents to represent the interests of their members.

An improvement in economic conditions as predicted by major banks since the last Reserve Bank cash rate reduction has only heightened the stakes in the battle of wills between the government and the Public Service Association (PSA), health sector groups, and traditional trade union representatives.

The past year set the stage for such a significant confrontation, not least because the harsh economic conditions presented an ideal environment in which, over a prolonged period, public sympathy could be generated for tales of unfairness, maladministration, and performance failures.

Over the next 12 months as the economy begins to grow, the PSA, union movement and sector interest groups can be expected to want to "cash in" on the climate of deprivation (staff shortages, inadequate wage levels, unacceptable working conditions) they have publicised.

While the core public service stands at about 65,000 full-time workers or equivalents, the number of people paid by the government for activities conducted on its behalf amounts to more than 450,000. This latter figure includes teachers, police, firefighters, and defence forces, and equates to about 20 percent of the country's workforce.

Avoidance of a clash seems unlikely. The government is committed to economic stewardship as a cornerstone of its bid for renewal in office. The scope for compromises will be better. But they are unlikely to be on a scale that satisfies without disruption demands

from within the health, education, and aged care/welfare sectors.

Potential outcomes are significant for both sides. Should public sympathy lean toward the government, it might well claim a right to impose restrictions on the scope of protest that can be undertaken in sectors such as health and education. On the other hand, sympathy for those withholding labour might well translate across to support for Labour and the Greens at the end of year general election – a clear objective of the union movement.

For New Zealand Inc the stakes are high. At the end of last month, according to Westpac, business confidence was at 67.1 (previously 58.1); expectation by business for their own trading activity up to 53.1 (previously 44.6), and activity levels at 21.3 (4.6 at the same time last year). The level of general business confidence and firms' own activity levels were at the highest they have been for 11 years.

Any developments that hinder this ongoing economic progress is unlikely to achieve more than limited support. For the unions and sector representatives the 2026 political environment will be one in which the mantra should be "careful what you wish for" and for the government "keep the public service plants selectively watered so that extreme claims can be readily seen as over the top".

Encouraging to the government in the latest surveys was an indication that manufacturing has now taken over from retailing as what Westpac called "the most upbeat sector of the economy". This suggests two positive elements. The first is that employment levels are likely to rise in coming months and the second, that the recent falls in the New Zealand dollar value against overseas currencies is providing exporters with fresh opportunities to develop offshore sales.



BRUCE KOHN

The Westpac overall view, in line with opinions expressed by the ANZ, was summarised as: "Lower interest rates, robust commodity prices and contained inflation pressures should support a return to more consistently above-trend growth."

Because a return to economic growth next year has been a cornerstone of National policy since the coalition took office, these surveys indicate a number of key political points come into play. Among them are a need to ensure that optimism of a potential return to office does not result in an arrogance among Beehive staff that they can ignore outside representations and expressions of assistance because "they know best".

Veterans of political engagement have noted a tendency toward dismissal of outside views, a symptom of which is a failure to respond even with minimum courtesy to outside communications that could be helpful to their ministers – an issue that frequently came to the fore in the closing stages of the Ardern-Hipkins administration.

They note that many on ministerial staff do not have "real world" experience beyond internal departmental responsibilities or academic tutorials, with little background to assess the on-ground realities of local community issues coming before their ministers. That a number look for service in the Beehive as a route to eventual selection as MPs underlines the need for openness in issues communication.

Another key factor is that confirmed predictions of economic growth offer the opportunity for proposing or implementing fresh policies. Speculation suggests that Labour's "Futures Fund" could well be trumped by a proposal to implement a fully fledged replica of Singapore's Temasek Fund that incorporates the full range of government-owned businesses. The Labour plan is a low-key cousin of the Singapore model.

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

CHRISTMAS ON THE COAST Parade and festival, Saturday, December 13. Parade 11am in Mazengarb Road, Paraparaumu; festival midday to 3pm at Mazengarb Reserve. (See pages 10-11).

LOW SENSORY CELEBRATION 10am-midday, Saturday, December 20, Paraparaumu Library. A Christmas celebration for tamariki who need a quieter and more relaxed environment.

ŌTAKI CHRISTMAS MARKET 58 Old Main Highway, Ōtaki. Sunday December 21, 10am-2pm. A FREE festive event for the community where you can find unique Christmas gifts. Bring the family for a fun day and support local sellers. Free photo with Santa, Christmas trees, market stalls, delicious kai.

CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND Ōtaki College Hall, 6-8.30pm, Saturday, Sunday and Monday December 20-22. Entry by koha.

SUMMER CAMP January 16-19. Four days of politics, discussion, speakers, music, bush, rivers and sea, for people aged 17-35 or so. Earlybird (to December 20) \$110, supported \$30, full price \$140. otakisummercamp.com

FESTIVAL OF POTS AND GARDEN ART Anam Cara Gardens, 150 Rangiuuru Road. Thursday, January 15 to Monday, January 19. Adults \$5, children (under 16) free: Door sales only.

PGA GOLF New Zealand PGA Championship, Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club, February 19-22.

ŌTAKI KITE FESTIVAL Saturday-Sunday, March 14-15, Ōtaki Beach. International and New Zealand flyers, including the return of the Phoenix Collective, the stunt kite flyers from Queensland. On-stage entertainment, food trucks, craft stalls, Kelly & Co big dig – and lots of kites.

MĀORILAND FILM FESTIVAL March 24–28, celebrating storytelling with screenings, art, and talks for its 13th annual event. Now the world's biggest Indigenous film festival – right here in Ōtaki. See maorilandfilm.co.nz

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

ŌTAKI MUSEUM 49 Main St. 06 364-6886. *Mai i te Kāinga Tāone Iti – Wāhanga 1: 1843-1920 (From Kāinga to Village – Part 1: 1843-1920)*. This is the third in a series of exhibitions focusing on the township of Ōtaki, and its development over the past 200 years. Visitors can also play the old theatre pianola while at the museum. The Anne Thorpe Reading Room is open at the same times as the museum. Museum open 10am-2pm Thursday to Saturday, except public holidays.

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

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

TOI MATARAU GALLERY Māoriland Hub, Main St, Ōtaki. Open Monday to Saturday 11am-4pm. Toi Matarau is a summit for multidisciplinary arts where Māori and indigenous artists gather, collaborate, are inspired and supported. See toi.maorilandfilm.co.nz

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

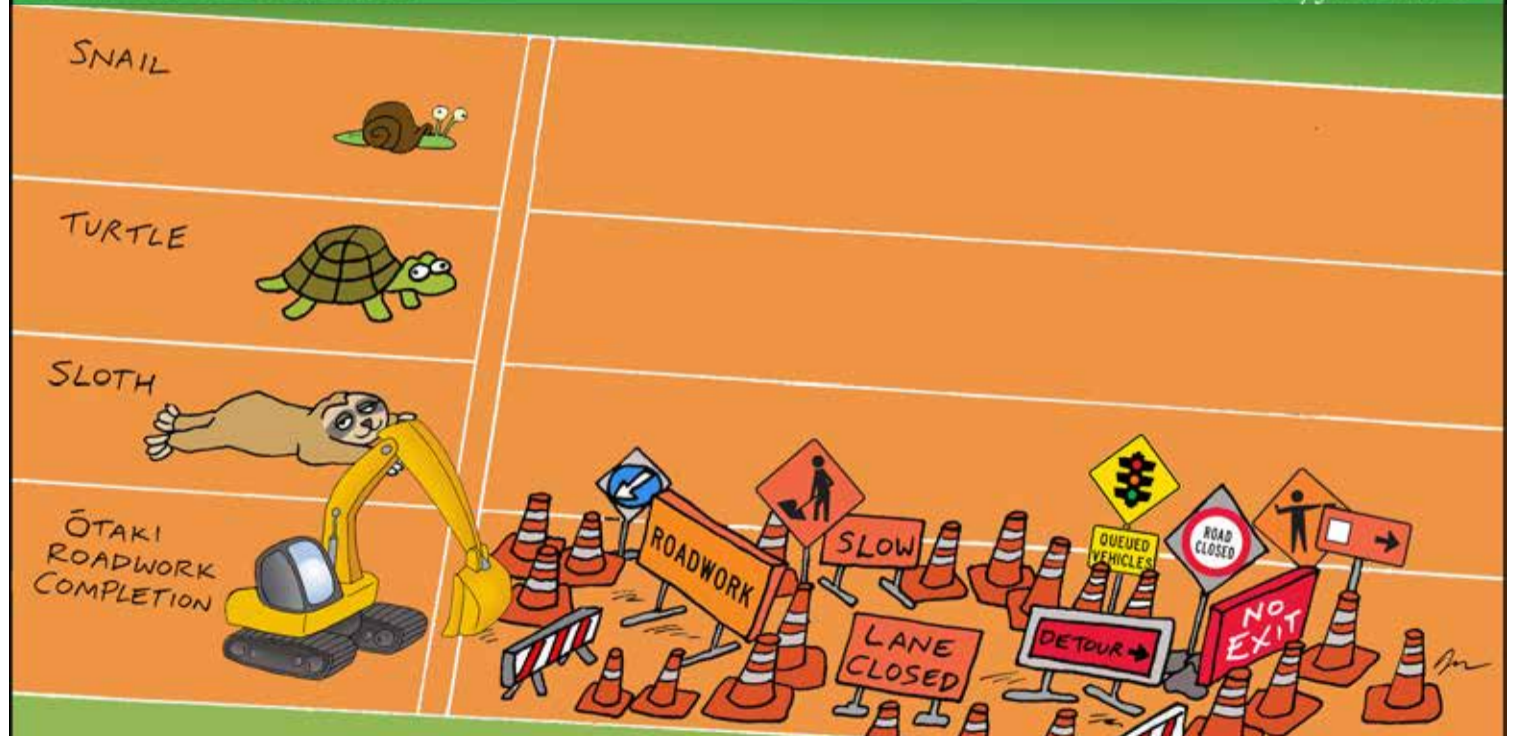
WAIKANAĒ BEACH INDOOR SPRING MARKET: Second Sunday of the month, 10am-1pm, at the Waikanae Beach Community Hall, 22 Rauparaha St, Waikanae Beach.

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

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

CARTOON OF THE MONTH

By Jared Carson



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KCDC directed to reconsider Moy Pl

By Ian Carson

Developer Wakefield Holdings has succeeded in a judicial review that sets aside a decision made by Kāpiti Coast District Council to not dedicate a road reserve at the end of Moy Place as a legal road.

The decision made by councillors brought work on the 137-lot Wakefield development – which began in 2021 – to a halt. Not changing the status of the road reserve to a legal road effectively blocked road access through Moy Place.

In a judgement of the High Court made on November 21, Justice David Gendall said: “Orders are to follow setting aside the 28 November 2024 decision of the KCDC (confirmed on 30 January 2025) and a direction made that the KCDC is to reconsider its decisions under s111 [of the Reserves Act] in accordance with the terms of this judgment.

“Effectively, this disposes of the present review application which succeeds.”

KCDC says a paper is scheduled to be tabled for decision at a December 11 council meeting “in response to the direction set out in Justice Gendall’s judgement”.

Nick Taylor, a director of Cuttriss Consultants, engaged by Wakefield Holdings, said they had hoped to avoid a judicial review, but were pleased with the court’s decision.

“With clear direction from the court, we can now move ahead to deliver much-needed housing for Ōtaki, using the safest access option,” he said.

The residents of Sue Avenue and Moy Place, however, have a different view. Spokesperson Lyall Payne told *Ōtaki Today* they were shocked



Moy Place, with the contentious access point at the end of the street. Photo Ōtaki Today

that the matter was being referred back to the council.

“Support for access off the main road came from residents, the wider Ōtaki community, iwi, the community board, and two council majority votes,” he said. “So where is democracy in all of this?”

He said there were still serious legal questions that required answers and he hoped the matter could lie on the table until they were answered.

Justice Gendall noted that councillors were briefed late in 2024 by council chief executive Darren Edwards, and by group manager infrastructure services Sean Mallon. Both recommended that the council pass the motion at a November 28, 2024, council meeting dedicating Lot 72 as a legal road.

At the meeting, five councillors voted in

favour of the change in designation, allowing the parcel of land to become a legal road.

They included Mayor Janet Holborow, Martin Halliday, Liz Koh, Sophie Handford and Kathy Spiers. Six voted against – Ōtaki-based councillors Rob Kofoed and Shelly Warwick, Deputy Mayor Lawrence Kirby, Nigel Wilson, Jocelyn Prvanov and Glenn Cooper.

When the decision was reconsidered at a meeting on January 30 this year, the vote was the same.

In his judgement, Justice Gendall said: “. . . I conclude that despite formal directions given to them, councillors did not correctly direct themselves to the law relating to s111. From the evidence, it is clear they actively considered matters . . . that were not related to the council’s function as the administering body of the

reserve. Whilst the views of some members of the community (particularly those living nearby) can be relevant, it is always for the council to make its decision and exercise any discretion it has in accordance with the purpose for which the reserve is held. It seems to me that this test was not one the KCDC applied here, and as such, an error of law occurred.”

Referring to costs, Justice Gendall’s preliminary – but not binding – view was that Wakefield as the successful party overall should be entitled to an award of costs, “perhaps on a scale costs basis”.

Papers for the January 30, 2025, council meeting noted that the financial costs associated with a judicial review were estimated to be between \$100,000-\$200,000.

The Wakefield development became a hot topic in Ōtaki throughout 2023 and 2024.

It centred around access to the new block of previously market garden land on the old highway just north of the Ōtaki River bridge.

Residents of Sue Avenue and Moy Place were incensed when they found out that access to the large block of land was to be through their quiet streets. This access would be across the small parcel of land at the end of Moy Place designated by KCDC as a road reserve.

The residents were concerned at the increased amount of vehicle traffic the estate would generate and argued that access should be off the old highway, directly into the new estate.

However, after resource consent under the so-called “fast track” process was granted in July 2024 the residents had little room to move. They successfully sought support from the Ōtaki Community Board and lobbied councillors to not change the road reserve status of the parcel of land.

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Garden trail raises \$50k for Te Horo Hall restoration

They came, they saw, and they spent some money – all for a good cause.

More than \$50,000 was raised for further restoration of Te Horo’s historic community hall when over 1200 visitors experienced the Te Horo Garden Trail on the weekend of November 15 and 16.

The trail attracted visitors from throughout the lower North Island – Hawke’s Bay, Manawatū, Wairarapa and Wellington, as well as huge numbers from the Kapiti Coast. Fourteen Te Horo gardens were on the trail.

“Visitors loved the variety” said trail committee chair Judy Wood. “We set out to showcase Te Horo’s diverse sea-to-hills garden styles and productivity. We had beach, rural and gorge gardens, formal and informal, flowers, meadows, natives, stone walls and water features.

“The help of 30-plus local volunteers resulted in two days of very happy customers and visitors – the atmosphere was fantastic”.

At trail HQ in the Te Horo Hall, garden-inspired market stalls offered arts, crafts, plants, flowers, woodwork, preloved tools and books. A café offered homemade eats and treats that reflected the country character of Te Horo, while a coffee cart provided refreshments. A raffle of garden related goods donated by local businesses was a bonus.

The \$50,000 raised exceeded all



Te Horo Garden Trail organisers, from left, Keitha Riddell, Barbara Chatters, Anne Barnett, Judy Wood, Jenny Asquith and Helen Cook. *Photo supplied*

expectations, said Hall Committee chair Bryan Hall.

“The funds allow ongoing restoration of the heritage hall, including recladding the exterior. Huge thanks must go to many including the garden owners; principal sponsors Kelly & Co, the Waikanae and Otaki community boards, and Signs by Mike; Michael Moore who designed the promotional materials; the garden centres who sold tickets; local businesses who donated goods or services; and those who donated potting mix, raffle prizes, bags,

pre-loved garden books, plants and tools; and the many volunteers.”

No sooner was the garden trail over than workers arrived at the hall – at 7.30am the day after – to strip, sand and resurface the original matai floor. The native timber flooring is a heritage feature of the hall, which was once known as the best dance floor on the Kāpiti Coast. The work almost completes the interior restoration phase – the exterior is next.

■ See www.tehorohall.org.nz or contact Judy Wood at 027 499 6096

Concerts line up

from front page

The Ōtaki rotunda was one of two built for King George V Hospital, Rotorua, in 1915-16.

With the First World War still raging, the octagonal rotundas were built as dormitories for convalescing servicemen, many having served at Gallipoli. They were named Anzac and Suvla, after the coves in the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Both rotundas were moved piece by piece to Ōtaki to become dormitories for New Zealand’s first children’s health camp, which opened in 1932. During the Second World War, with the fear of Japanese bombing in the capital, the rotundas were requisitioned to accommodate patients from Wellington Hospital. Nurses were billeted at the Capitol holiday park.

One of the rotundas was demolished in 1963 after being converted to a recreation hall.

When the last vestiges of the health camp, then run by Stand Children’s Services, closed in 2018, the buildings in the complex became redundant and fell into disrepair.

Seeking to save and restore the historic rotunda, the Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda was officially established in February 2019. Heritage New Zealand had already listed the rotunda as having category 1 heritage status, protecting its historical significance.

Since 2019, the Friends have secured funding close to \$850,000, and scores of volunteers have worked hundreds of hours in working bees. Many open days have also been held, offering the public – and sometimes former boarders at the health camp – an opportunity to learn about the rotunda’s history and to see the restoration work. To date over 600 people have participated in a tour.

Kiwi Can Do, an NGO providing construction industry training, in partnership with Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki currently leases the former health camp complex (excluding the rotunda) from the Department of Conservation. Some of the buildings are rented out to other community organisations and the kitchen areas are used by Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki to prepare school lunches.



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Tracy and her amazing agave plant

By Ian Carson

Ōtaki Beach resident Tracy Riley likes her plants, always interested in what her garden will produce.

But one plant brought a particular fascination, growing rapidly – noticeably day by day – near her front door.

The cactus-like, spiky plant, which is of the agave family and native to North America, had sat dormant in the pebbles and sandy soil along the side of the house for the two years Tracy has lived there. She believes it was planted by the previous owners in the 1990s.

Then one day about a month ago, a spike emerged from its centre – and then it grew. Within a week it had to be bent away from the house as it was threatening to push up under the eaves. Although growth has finally slowed, flower stalks at the top have sprouted and enlarged, and red and white flowers have developed inside the base plant.

“It’s been just amazing to watch,” Tracy says. “Every morning I would come out and it had grown a bit more. It’s grown into a very big, solid plant.”

The rise of the huge flower stalk (or quito) occurs with it drawing all resources from the main plant, a process called monocarpic flowering. The stalk can grow to a height of between 4.5 to 12 metres.

It eventually creates an enormous bloom that attracts pollinators, and the seed pods or tiny clones (bulbils) fall to the ground around the base to continue the cycle. They can be replanted or left to grow where they fall. However, it’s the final act for the entire mother plant. Having spent all its energy, it dies.

Agaves often take anything from seven to 40-plus years before their “death bloom”.

At left, Tracy Riley with her “amazing” agave. Photo Ōtaki Today

BRIEFS



Te Whakaminenga meets

Kāpiti Coast District Council and mana whenua representatives had their first meeting of Te Whakaminenga o Kapiti for the term on December 2 at Raukawa Marae, Ōtaki. Te Whakaminemga is a 30+ year partnership forum between the council and representatives of Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai, and Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki. Mayor Janet Holborow said the hui reaffirmed the council’s commitment to working in partnership with mana whenua and was a key part of the new council’s induction.

Twenty-three call-outs

Ōtaki Volunteer Fire Brigade had 23 call-outs through November, ending the month with 28. There were eight calls for rubbish, grass and scrub fires; six to attend to private fire alarms; three for medical emergencies; two for property fires; two for “special services”; one cover for the Waikanae brigade; and one to assist the Levin Brigade at Speldhurst Country Estate.

Meri Kirihimete!

It’s been our honour guiding so many through their buying and selling journeys. Thank you for making 2025 amazing! Here’s to more smiles in 2026.

Happy Holidays!

Kelly & Co
REALTY

Waitohu pipe works

Work will begin in January to lay a new pipeline between the existing Waitohu Reservoir and the new Ōtaki Reservoir.

The pipes will be laid mostly along the berm on Waitohu Valley Road from the existing reservoir to the reticulation network at the top of Te Manuao Road. One lane will be closed around the worksite during installation of the pipeline.

Kāpiti Coast District Council's group manager infrastructure and asset management, Sean Mallon, says the new pipeline will replace an ageing pipe and future-proof the area for a possible second new reservoir.

"The installation of the new pipeline will

begin in early January and is expected to be completed by July 2026," he says.

The new pipeline follows the recent completion of a 5.5-million litre reservoir on Te Manuao Road. The drinking water network upgrades are part of \$50 million infrastructure upgrades under way in Ōtaki supported by \$29.3 million of Crown funding.

Construction has also started on a new pump station on road reserve on Waitohu Valley Road.

At right, a KCDC map showing the location of pipeline works.



Funding helps Waikawa planting

A Freshwater grant from Horizons Regional Council has got a planting project off the ground for the Waikawa Beach Environment Group.

The riparian planting project is on a section of land along the Waikawa Stream. Group spokes-person Debra Betts says the project has also been made possible thanks to the support of Ngāti Wehi Wehi and local landowners Te Roera Puna and Caroline Beaufort.

"They have generously opened part of their property for the restoration planting," Debra says.

The Horizons grant has allowed WBEG to buy a range of native plants specifically suited to riparian restoration.

"It's an investment that will help strengthen streambanks, improve shade, and enhance habitat over time.

"Riparian planting is one of the most



effective and practical ways communities can care for waterways, and we're grateful to be working alongside our local iwi and landowners to support this shared goal."

A community site preparation and planting day was held on Saturday morning, December 6, during which

about 700 plants were dug in (photo at left).

The volunteer group also got funding through Horizons' Kanorau Koiora Taketake – Indigenous Biodiversity Community Grant earlier this year for its work in restoring and maintaining indigenous plants at Waikawa Beach.

For more information, look for Waikawa Beach Environment Group on Facebook

"Waikawa Stream is an important taonga for our community," Debra says. "This project is a chance for locals, landowners, and Horizons to come together to enhance an area that has wide-ranging benefits – for people, plants, birdlife, and the wider environment."

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More works in downtown Ōtaki

Just when locals thought the cones were disappearing from downtown Ōtaki, road works began at the Telegraph Hotel intersection.

Traffic management held up motorists for up to five minutes as work progressed.

The first works were begun on November 26, when a section of Te Rauparaha Street was re-laid. The second section was begun on December 2, along Rangiuuru Road past the Telegraph Hotel.

As at press time (December 9), the Main Road and Tasman Road sections were still to be completed. Each section is scheduled to take about three days to complete, depending on weather.

The works are part of Kāpiti Coast District Council's regular maintenance programme, not related to the other big infrastructure projects – the wastewater upgrade along Aotaki Street and Mill Road, and NZTA's revocation works at the Railway.

While locals seemed surprised by the emergence of works at the Telegraph intersection, a council spokesperson told *Ōtaki Today* letters advising of the works had been dropped to "nearby neighbours".

Meantime, the Aotaki Street section of the wastewater upgrade is now complete and operating. The north end of Aotaki Street was scheduled to be resurfaced on December 9 (weather dependent).



Workers at the Rangiuuru Road intersection, part two of an upgrade of the road surface and pedestrian crossings.

Photo Ōtaki Today

More road resurfacing is planned for summer.

At the BP roundabout on the old state highway, pipework has been installed across the intersection to the bottom of the over-ramp on Rāhui Road, where there's a new manhole.

This area has been the site of some of Ōtaki's biggest works in recent times, coming at the same time as NZTA's revocation works.

The council says the roundabout has been challenging, as the team has to work around many clashing services – relocating power cables, sewer mains and Chorus telecommunications network lines.

From the new Rāhui Road manhole, the pipe heads into Pare-o-Matangi Reserve to another manhole.

On the roundabout itself, the kerb has been removed and workers are

preparing for the new kerb line in the north-east corner. New stormwater and roadside sumps have been installed.

For local road users, it's welcome news that the roundabout is now open in three directions (except Rāhui Road) with full access from north and south into Mill Road.

This week (beginning December 8), the crew will install ducting for new street lighting at the roundabout

as well as new kerb and channel and footpaths on the four corners.

Rāhui Road will remain closed until mid-to-late December, opening temporarily over the Christmas break. Roundabout work will restart on January 6.

The final two phases of the wastewater upgrade, to begin in the new year, will involve tunnelling the Rāhui Road pipe under the train track and expressway, then installing the pipe along Rāhui and Te Roto roads.

On NZTA's revocation works in the Railway area, workers are tidying up the area ready for the Christmas break. The road from BP to Arthur Street will be resurfaced first. Weather dependent, the work is scheduled over three or four nights in the week beginning December 8.

At the northern end of the Railway, the contractor is now focused on replacing the kerb and channel south to the Arthur Street intersection. The footpath, kerb and channel, and resurfacing work will restart in February.

North of Ōtaki towards Levin, all daytime corridor improvement works have finished for the year. Work crews were scheduled to carry on with limited night works for a week or so from December 8.

"Like everyone else, our crews are looking forward to spending time with their families over summer and the Christmas break," an NZTA statement said.

Merry Christmas from Tim Costley, Your local MP

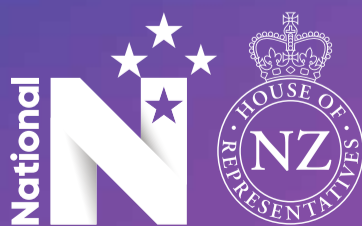
Reach me at my Kāpiti office

020 438 8462

kapiti@parliament.govt.nz

6 Te Roto Dr, Paraparaumu

Tim Costley
MP for Ōtaki



Authorised by Tim Costley, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.





Friends of the Ōtaki Foodbank are dwarfed by the huge number of bags collected in the recent appeal.

Photo supplied

Community fronts up for foodbank

Friends of the Ōtaki Foodbank were “blown away” with the response to its annual collection on November 29 in which more than 200 parcels were donated.

“Wow, Ōtaki, you’ve done it again!” said Friends spokesperson Don Howden. “We

want to thank everyone who donated parcels of food and other essentials.

“We were blown away by the generosity of the community in these challenging times. The collection is critical to the foodbank, particularly at this time of year.”

He also thanked Otaki Community Board

for helping with the costs of producing flyers and newspaper advertising, and Ōtaki Scouts for helping with the collection.

Don says the Friends always welcome other helpers, with the focus is on this one event in November. If you can help, contact Don on 027 4236 487.

Ōtaki scoops regional awards

Māoriland Charitable Trust reigned supreme as it took the top prize at the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards on November 13.

The trust took the Supreme Award after winning the Arts and Culture category.

Māoriland board member Tainui Stephens said it was an amazing honour to be with individuals and organisations who made people’s lives better on a voluntary basis.

“Māoriland exists because the people need stories, and we’re in the fortunate position to be able to share what we know to make the world a better place,” he said.

Airport chief executive Matt Clarke said Māoriland stood out.

“Their mahi helps Māori and Indigenous storytelling be heard across Aotearoa and the world, empowering young people and celebrating unique stories of who we are,” he said.

Ōtaki Women’s Community Club’s Kids Market won the Education & Child/Youth Development category at the awards.

The women’s club has operated the Ōtaki Market since 1996, and in 2023 launched the Ōtaki Kids Market to give young people the opportunity to develop entrepreneurial skills, express creativity, and gain real-world experience in a supportive environment.

Alongside the market itself, the club provides workshops, mentoring, school visits, and community events that help young people build confidence & independence.

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Slew of awards, but funding tough for Māoriland

The view from Māoriland

Māoriland Charitable Trust knows how tough it is out there.

From its Ōtaki home of the Māoriland Hub, the independent Māori film and arts entity should be finishing the year on a high, having been recognised with several global and national awards. However, despite its successes, Māoriland says funding its activities is even harder than ever.

Last month Māoriland was named the Supreme Winner and the Arts and Culture Regional winner at the 2025 Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards, after also scooping both in October in the Kāpiti section. It also won the Global Production Award for Social & Economic Impact at Cannes in June, and a Matihiko Award for the Māoriland Tech Creative Hub (MATCH) in Christchurch that same month.

The managing director of Māoriland, Libby Hakaraia, was inducted into the Kāpiti Business Hall of Fame in October and just this month named as a recipient in the national Creative NZ (CNZ) awards. The CNZ award recognises the work that Libby has achieved in making a difference in the arts across her career as a filmmaker and in spearheading the Māoriland Film Festival.

The festival is now in the capable hands of another founder of Māoriland, film festival director Maddy de Young Hakaraia, who with a workforce of 70 helped make MFF2025 the biggest yet. In March 2025 the Māoriland Film Festival attracted 25,000 visitors to Ōtaki and generated an estimated \$3.6 million GDP with \$6.8 million in turnover generated for the Kāpiti Coast (data collected by Kāpiti Coast District Council).



Māoriland Charitable Trust was crowned supreme winner at the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards on November 13. Pictured, from left, are Wellington Airport chief executive Matt Clarke; and from Māoriland, trustees Tainui Stephens and Francene Wineti, Maaka Houia Gair and Maakarita Paku.

Photo supplied

Over the 13 years of its annual event, Māoriland Film Festival has injected more than \$27 million into the region and is now the largest Indigenous film festival in the world.

With numbers like this, one would have thought both central and local government would be huge supporters of Māoriland, which has built from the grassroots up and returns all of its revenue back to the community. It has trained more than 1500 young people through MATCH in digital technologies and in filmmaking activities, including camera, sound, and post production, and as writers, directors, producers and on-set. It also provides employment and other opportunities locally, nationally and internationally.

In 2025 the government released *Amplify: A*

Creative and Cultural Strategy for New Zealand, a strategy that outlined how the government would prioritise support for our creative and cultural sectors to 2030. The strategy described actions as supporting economic and export growth, engagement with creative and cultural activities, and the resilience of creative and cultural work and activity in New Zealand.

Key targets of Amplify were that:

- the economic contribution of the arts and creative sectors grows to at least \$22 billion (of GDP), with a focus on cultural exports and tourism
- a 10 percent increase in the number of Kiwis engaging with arts, culture and heritage, and
- 5000 more people working in the creative sector.

That all sounds great but the reality for all arts organisations, including Māoriland, is shrinking funding, funding that no longer exists, long waits for funding decisions, and enormous competition for whatever funds are there across the board, including in the philanthropic area. Many arts organisations are not going to be able to hold on until the strategy comes into effect.

If Māoriland is to continue to be the global celebration of Indigenous storytelling – right here in Ōtaki – then it needs to be given real support right now.

■ Show your love for Māoriland by being part of its success story. For more information including how you can be a sponsor at MFF2026 or support the operational costs of the Māoriland Hub contact kiaora@māorilandfilm.co.nz



THANK YOU

Ōtaki

As your local travel agent in Ōtaki, I'd like to thank you all for your support in 2025.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thinking of a trip in 2026?
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Vanessa Kirkman

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Ōtaki Update

December 2025



SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER

- Parade – 11am Mazengarb Road
- Festival – 12 to 3pm Mazengarb Reserve



Christmas Parade

Join us for a colourful convoy of festive floats and wave to Santa as he parades down Mazengarb Road at 11am.

Christmas Festival

The festivities will continue at Mazengarb Reserve immediately following the Parade, with a fun and festive array of free entertainment and activities until 3pm.

- We'll have free activities and entertainment, including Kāpiti's largest bounce zone, face painting, a festive photobooth, local performances, and more!
- Pack a picnic or buy a tasty treat from one of the food trucks on site.

Dreaming of a green Christmas

We're making our event as sustainable as possible so we can have fun that doesn't cost the earth. Please consider:

- bringing your reusable cup or water-bottle to refill at one of our water stations
- keeping your rubbish to a minimum and recycle at our rubbish stations
- leaving the car at home and make use of the complementary bike racks.

Parade road closures

To keep Santa, our parade participants, and spectators safe, the parade route will be closed to traffic from 11am–12pm on Saturday 13 December.

- Mazengarb Road will be closed between College Drive and Ratanui Road.
- Scaife Road will be closed.
- Detours will be in place along Guilford Drive.

Getting there

- Buses 261 and 262 between Paraparaumu Station and Paraparaumu Beach.
- Bike, scoot, or stroll and enjoy our Kāpiti summer weather.
- If you're driving, remember to get there early to avoid detours.

Parking

- There will be limited on-street parking – please keep driveways clear.
- Additional off-street parking is available on western side of the Realm Drive/ Mazengarb Road intersection.
- There will be limited accessible parking in Mazengarb Reserve – arrive early to get a spot before the street is closed for the parade.

This is family-friendly event, so we're keeping it smoke-free, vape-free, and ask that you please leave your dogs at home.

Please note: photographers will be on site. Please let Council staff know if you don't want images of you included in their communications and publications.



We know a big event isn't for everyone, that's why we're also having a **low-sensory Christmas Celebration** at Paraparaumu Library on Saturday 20 December, 10am–12pm.

Thanks to our sponsors:



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Mike Pero



kapiticoast.govt.nz



CHRISTMAS on the Coast PARADE & FESTIVAL

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CHRISTMAS
on the Coast

-  Carparking
-  Festival site
-  Bike racks
-  Parade route
-  Main carpark
-  Walkways
-  Bus stops
-  Accessible parking



Mayor's message

Nau mai te raumati (welcome summer)! It's been an exciting year as we continue to invest in key projects that strengthen and enhance Ōtaki. In other words, we're working hard to get rid of the orange cones!

Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote this year. It's great to be back at the Council table with new and returning councillors and community boards members, including your new Ōtaki Ward Councillor Heniti Buick.

We've got a lot of mahi ahead of us as we continue our journey to build a more resilient future for everyone that calls Kāpiti home. One of our key priorities for early 2026 will be developing our Annual Plan 2025/26 and Long-term Plan 2027–37 – core documents that set our priorities, budgets, and work programmes for the years ahead.

Ngā mihi nui to everyone who took the time to meet with us throughout the year and make submissions to help inform our mahi. Thank you also to the many volunteers and community organisations who work tirelessly to support those in need and make Ōtaki a great place to live.

I wish you a safe and enjoyable summer in this beautiful place we call home.

Kāpiti Coast District Mayor, Janet Holborow



A year of upgrades for Ōtaki

- **Ōtaki wastewater upgrade continues** – the laying of 2.7 kilometres of larger wastewater pipes has been a massive undertaking. Work near the Aotaki Street/Mill Road roundabout is now complete. Our crew is installing the last two manholes on Rāhui Road which is closed until February, but will temporarily be opened over the Christmas break.
- **Ōtaki reservoir completed** – we've completed one of two new reservoirs.
- **Blue Bluff Road repairs** – repairs to the major slips at Blue Bluff on Ōtaki Gorge Road were carried out and a further small slip just past the area was also fixed.
- **New shared path on Riverbank Road** – now open.
- **Ōtaki Theatre** – work to earthquake strengthen and enhance the heritage building's accessibility is expected to be completed in February 2026.



Summer activities!

Need to cool off?

- Ōtaki Pool is the place to be. SPLASH! sessions with inflatables and games are on every day of the school holidays between 1–4.30pm.
- The Ōtaki splashpad at Haruātai Park is now open for summer, don't forget to pack a picnic!
- If you need to escape the sun, check out our ngā whare pukapuka (libraries) for summer reading, Te Reo drop-in sessions, and holiday programmes.

Events

- Christmas on the Coast Parade and Festival – 13 December, 11am–3pm, Paraparaumu.
- Low-Sensory Christmas Celebration (for tamariki who need a quieter and more relaxed environment) – 20 December, 10am–12pm, Paraparaumu Library.
- Movies in the Park (Waikanae) is back on 21 February.
- Ōtaki Kite Festival on 14–15 March at Ōtaki Beach.

► **To find more ways to be entertained this summer visit kapitiummer.nz**

Keeping safe this summer

Please remember driving on most of our beaches is prohibited unless you're launching boats or using land yachts in designated areas. Know the zones before you go.

We want you to be safe swimming at the beach and in our rivers:

- Swim between the flags and follow Ōtaki Surf Lifesaving Club's instructions.
- Check the water quality on our website before you go for a dip. Don't swim after heavy rain and avoid swimming in river mouths or near stormwater outlets on beaches.
- Poor water quality can increase the risk of illness for young children and vulnerable people.
- Be on the lookout for toxic algae in or near our rivers – a small amount can kill a dog!

► **Learn how to keep safe in Kāpiti, and visit kapiticoast.govt.nz/keepingsafe**

Holiday opening hours

Our Ōtaki Library will be closed for the holiday period from 3pm Wednesday 24 December until Saturday 3 January. Our service centre will close at 3pm Wednesday 24 December and will re-open 9am Monday 5 January. If you need us over this period, our after-hours team are available on **0800 486 486**.



ŌTAKI STREET SCENE



Paula Archibald



Karen Piercy

ŌTAKI DISTRICT ARTS, ATTRACTIONS AND EVENTS

Summer 2025-26

Animal sanctuary open days

The Black Sheep Animal Sanctuary (BSAS) is holding four open days over summer – Saturdays December 13, January 3 and 31, and February 14. Make a day of it – the sanctuary is just five minutes away from some lovely river spots on the Ōtaki River and 20 mins from Ōtaki town and beach.

Open days include a tour of the sanctuary to meet the animals, learn about them and how they are looked after, followed by a vegan afternoon tea. Money from ticket sales helps with the ongoing care of the animals.

Open days are weather dependent and in the event of rain will normally open the following Saturday.

Visitors should arrive between 12:30 and 1pm, and bring strong closed-toe footwear, sunblock, and clothing for all weather. No animal food products are allowed on the sanctuary grounds as it is a human vegan space.

Dogs are not welcome as there are a lot of vulnerable animals on site. Depending on the weather, clothing and footwear might get muddy, so wear clothing that isn't too precious.

If you have questions about accessibility you can call the sanctuary on 06 364 2241 or email blacksheepotaki@gmail.com before you arrive. The sanctuary is not wheelchair accessible.

The sanctuary is a farm working predominantly with rescued ex-farm animals, including sheep, goats, pigs, cows, ducks and more. In November 2009 the Animal Protection Society bought 26 acres of land to set up a sanctuary for animals founded on animal rights principles. Its primary aim is to provide a refuge for abused, neglected, and mistreated animals, especially former farm animals.

In New Zealand, a country where the economy depends on the dairy and meat industry, many animals are in dire need of care and protection. The sanctuary rescues and rehabilitates abused animals, including ex-dairy cows, ex-factory farm pigs, and ex-battery chickens. Where possible, they are rehomed. For the many animals which cannot be rehomed, BSAS offers a safe space where they can live out the rest of their lives in peace and security, in the company of others of their kind.

The sanctuary is owned by registered charity Animal Protection Society who seek to support both human and animal rights, and are against all forms of oppression. BSAS are pro-feminist, anti-racist, and oppose sexism, inequality and environmental destruction. They acknowledge local iwi and hapū as tāngata whenua.

They promote animal rights and animal liberation through open days, newsletters, stalls, fundraising shops, and supporting animal rights conferences. The Sanctuary's main sources of funding are the Opportunity for Animals Opshops. They happily accept donations of fruit, vegies, or hay for the animals.

• Tickets at theblacksheep.org.nz



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ŌTAKI STREET SCENE



Jacinta Parry at work in her studio. Photo Janine Baalbergen

Art for the love of it

By Janine Baalbergen

Waikawa resident Jacinta Parry paints for the love of the art. Her colourful paintings feature dune and beach scapes as well as many, many flowers.

She held her first solo exhibition at Levin's Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-po in November, which for her was an inspiring experiment.

Jacinta started painting at 30.

"At the time it was a form of relaxation from a very busy work life," she says. "In 2016 I sustained a head injury and found painting very helpful in the recovery. It was great to be able to connect with nature through painting."

She was so keen on painting she completed a diploma in visual arts. Her passion for the art form also led to make the decision to go big and built herself a studio.

"Most people do that much later in the process."

Jacintas is also an avid gardener – her garden is a source of inspiration for her work (see *Hydrangeas* below left).



Her first solo exhibition at the Te Takeretanga has been an eye opener.

"It was great to interact with visitors. Many came up from the Kāpiti Coast and the Hutt Valley just to see my work. It's a great space. It connects you with the community."

She spent every second day at Te Takeretanga painting and talking to visitors.

"I got lots of feedback. I sold a few paintings as well as some reproductions, and was asked twice to work on commission."

"Some visitors were tearful when they saw my paintings. It evoked emotions for them."

Summer at Toi Mahara

DAILY KĀPITI: Joanna Margaret Paul (1945–2003) until March 22.

Ringa Toi | Artists' Gallery

Prolific and multi-talented Joanna Paul was one of the most gifted artists of her generation. Intensely responsive to the world around her, she depicted her surroundings, constantly reworking the conventions of drawing and watercolour painting. She also documented her environment in photographs and experimental short films, and published poetry, criticism and non-fiction. Her impulse was towards complexity in honouring the mystery she perceived in her subject, whether it was a domestic still life, the view from her kitchen window, or one of her children. She brought an innovative interdisciplinary approach to her practice, often blurring the boundaries between media. When struck by an idea, she wrote: "It remains only to determine whether this image can be most forcefully caught in a poem, photograph, or ... painting." – teara.govt.nz

Talk: Daily Kāpiti, Joanna Margaret Paul. February 22, 2.30–3.30pm

Curator Gary Freemantle discusses the work of artist Joanna Margaret Paul in relation to the exhibition *Daily Kāpiti*. Limited places, drop into the gallery or book at toimahara.nz



Untitled, by Joanna Margaret Paul.



Wings over Water, 1931–1932, Frances Hodgkins.

Talk: Frances Hodgkins and British modernism February 11, 2–3pm

Discover the rich artistic legacy of Frances Hodgkins in a special floor talk with curator Vicki Robson. Explore how this pioneering New Zealand artist helped shape British modernism in the 1920s and early 1930s, and learn more about her connections to the changing art world of the time.

FURTHER REVELATION:

Frances Hodgkins and British modernism 1920–1935

until April 25

Taonga Tuku Iho | Heritage Gallery

The 1920s was the decade in which Frances Hodgkins developed her mature style leading her becoming, in the 1940s, one of the most celebrated modern artists in Britain. She joined the exhibiting group the Seven & Five Society in 1929 whose leading artists rejected the English academic tradition, instead looking towards the exciting new work produced by Picasso, Braque, Matisse and others.

This exhibition features Hodgkins' work from the beginning to the end of the 1920s, along with some of her fellow artists from the Seven & Five Society. Artists included are Cedric Morris, Claude Flight, John Piper, Ivon Hitchens, Christopher Wood, Len Lye, Alfred Wallis and David Jones.



AROTAKE TOI | MAHARA ARTS REVIEW

until January 31 | Te Manawa Toi | Coastlands Gallery
Arotake Toi | Mahara Arts Review showcases the work of emerging and established artists from Kāpiti and Horowhenua. Ninety submissions were received, spanning a range of media, scale and artforms from which 64 works were selected to present a diverse and vibrant exhibition. Artist's awards and a list of the artists can be found at: toimahara.nz



Frances Hodgkins, *Painting class on the beach* (detail), 1920



Joanna Margaret Paul, *Paekakariki II* (detail), 1977

Further revelation: Frances Hodgkins and British modernism 1920–1935

Daily Kāpiti, Joanna Margaret Paul

Exhibitions on now

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Kāpiti Coast District Gallery

ŌTAKI STREET SCENE



FROM THE ARCHIVES: PAPERS PAST

NEW ZEALAND TIMES. 29 DECEMBER 1914.
HOROWHENUA NOTES

From, Our Own Correspondent. ŌTAKI, December 28. Christmas Day at the Ōtaki Hospital and Sanatorium was a bright and happy one for the many inmates. The hospital hall and wards were decorated with fern and flowers and made an attractive and pretty sight, while at the "San" the large dining room was beautifully decorated, being the work of the patients. The table decorations were most attractive, being of choice sweet peas, kindly sent by Mr Trevethick, of the Hutt. In the afternoon a carol service was held, and an address given by the Rev. G. F. Petrie, while in the evening the "San" carol singers visited the hospital and cheered the patients by their fine singing. All expressed themselves as having a very happy Christmas, and were grateful to the kind friends who helped to provide the good time.

Several ex-Ōtaki youths, now members of the Māori contingent in camp at Avondale, are paying a visit to their homes.

The matron of the Ōtaki hospital acknowledges with many thanks the following gifts for the Christmas season: Mrs Bright, sen., £1 Is, Mrs McHardie £1 Is, and Mr Joe Kum Wah £1 Is. Other kind friends who sent liberal gifts were: Mrs Cockrell, Mrs C. H. AVilliamas, Mrs H. Bright, Mrs Tomsitt, Mrs Robinson, Miss Withey, Messrs Bills and Moore and Mr T. King.

Mr S. Laddell, who suffered a badly fractured ankle through falling over an embankment at Levin on Christmas Eve, is now an inmate of the Ōtaki Hospital, where he is doing well under the circumstances. The institution is now fairly full, but on the whole the patients had an enjoyable Christmas.

Dr and Mrs Paterson, of Pahiatua, and well-known locally, have been spending the holiday season with friends in Ōtaki. There was an influx of visitors to Ōtaki during Christmas week, while many residents journeyed to various places to spend the holidays.

Special services were held in the local churches on Christmas Day, and some excellent discourses were delivered. Special reference was made to the war, at the Church of England, where a carol service was also held. The building was simply, but effectively, decorated. All the services were well attended, and a large number of communicants partook of the Sacrament.

The Misses Tomsitt, of Ōtaki, left on Saturday for the north, where they will spend several weeks' holiday. The sneak thief was in evidence in Ōtaki during the festive season, and in many cases made substantial hauls, irrespective of the feelings of residents. One safe was rifled of a large ham, Christmas puddings, etc., others of similar things, while outhouses were also visited and, articles such as potatoes, etc., abstracted. Sneak-thieving in Ōtaki is getting very rife, and it is hoped the miscreants will soon be run to earth.

THE ŌTAKI MAIL. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1930.
CHRISTMAS SHOPPING.

Though Christmas week is nearly a month away, we would urge upon shoppers to do their Christmas shopping early. -Most of the business establishments in Ōtaki have their stocks of Christmas goods on the shelves, and it must be patent to all that the first corners will secure the best

selection. It is unfair to all concerned for purchasers to leave their shopping till the dying hours of Christmas Eve. Shopping before the rush sets in gives residents an opportunity to select goods at their leisure, and it lightens the burden of the shop assistants by spreading the extra work over a longer period. The shopper should also remember that loyalty to the firms in the town itself leads to all-round prosperity – to better times for the shopper, and the provision of more work. The shops in Ōtaki stock goods equal to those to be found in most country places, and in the circumstances there is no need to go outside the town for one's purchases. In Christmas goods there is to be found varied and up-to-date stocks at prices to suit all pockets. The "Christmas shopper" should shop early and shop locally.



THE ŌTAKI MAIL. MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1931.
CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Though we are passing through a strenuous financial period, there is daily evidence that the spirit of Ōtaki is right. During the winter period, when work was very scarce, and unemployed were greater in number, than ever before recorded, those in need of help were not forgotten, and various local institutions did splendid work in providing food and clothing for those who were almost at starvation's door. Ōtaki is proud of those organisations which assumed the role of the good Samaritan and made the lot of needy women and children lighter by that practical sympathy which was so closely associated with the work of the Carpenter of Nazareth. The Christmas season is approaching. In most of the homes in Ōtaki there will be plenty, and Christmas will be a period of happy rejoicing. But there will be a number where the spectre of need stalks, and for the sake of the women and children we feel sure that Ōtaki will rise to the occasion and share its Christmas cheer with those less fortunate than themselves.

THE ŌTAKI MAIL. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1932.
TRADE IN ŌTAKI

Though it is over six weeks till Christmas, a large number of Ōtaki residents are making preparations in connection

CHRONICLE 16 DECEMBER 1948

GET YOUR JOINTS
FROM
GEO. MANN
MAIN STREET, OTAKI
POULTRY AND SMALLGOODS
All Meat killed at Abattoirs under
Government Inspection
'PHONE 16

with giving Christmas presents – that is to say, they are purchasing gifts and putting them away until the time for presentation arrives. To the people of Ōtaki we would make an appeal to support local tradesmen in their Christmas gift purchases. "Upon the prosperity of the business firms of Ōtaki depends to a very large extent the prosperity of the citizens. The greater the business done by firms in Ōtaki, the more demand there will be for labour. The Ōtaki shopkeepers have experienced a very trying time during the past year, but they have faced the position squarely, without proclaiming it from the housetops, nor appealing to the Government for help. There has been no easing of the burden of taxation which the trading community has had to carry; rather has the load been increased. But our businessmen, often carrying many residents along on the credit system, because the latter are "up against it," too, are weathering the storm, and loyalty to Ōtaki and to these firms demands that as much trade as possible should be kept in the town, circulating the money among ourselves, and thus building up the prosperity of the community to the general benefit of all."

CHRONICLE (LEVIN) 10 DECEMBER 1946

Children's Party: A very successful children's Christmas party was held in the Anglican Hall on Thursday afternoon by the Ōtaki Women's Institute. Over 70 children sat down to tables laden with all the things that appealed to the little ones. After the meal the curtains were drawn to disclose Father Xmas and the gaily decorated Christmas tree. The little guests were then handed their presents by Father Christmas amidst great excitement. They were entertained with a humorous recitation by Mrs. McConville and so ended a happy day made possible by the many willing helpers and providers.

CHRONICLE 16 DECEMBER 1948

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ŌTAKI STREET SCENE



ART GALLERIES & ARTISTS

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

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

ATB TATTOO STUDIO & GALLERY
Arthur St. abandonthebox.co.nz

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

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

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

BIRGIT MOFFATT: 32 Parenga Rd, Ōtaki Gorge. 022 460 2695. birgitmoffatt.com

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

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

HANNEKE KOOP: Ceramics, pottery, textiles. 144 Te Waka Rd, Te Horo. hankoop@gmail.com

THE HORI GALLERY: 84 Moana St, Ōtaki Beach. thehori.co.nz

JAILHOUSE POTTERY: Jennifer Turnbull, 3 Iiti St, Ōtaki. 021 295 7473. jenniferturnbull.co.nz

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

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

KARL ANDREWS: Painter, karlandrews.art

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

KENO SCULPTURES 7 Byron Brown Place, Ōtaki Beach. 021 855 088. kenosculpture.co.nz

GREG MOFFATT | KUKU CREATIVE

021 209 5912, kukumogs@gmail.com

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

LORNA TAWHITI: may15tattoo.com e: lorna@may15tattoo.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

REBECCA NEAL CERAMICS

89 Ringawhatai Rd. Colourful, domestic, decorative ceramics.

RICHARD WELLS ART STUDIO:

26 Waitohu Valley Rd. Landscapes, birds and flowers.

ROD GRAHAM: Clayworks, 35 Ngaio St, Ōtaki Beach. 027 445 7545.

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

ROSEMARY MORTIMER: Printmaker. 306 Te Waka Rd, Te Horo. 027 236 7343 rosemarymortimer.com

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

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

SEAGRASS GALLERY: Grant Stevenson, 38 Moana St, Ōtaki Beach. 027 231 4643. seagrassgallery.co.nz

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

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

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

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

STUDIO RESET: Encaustic artist. www.studioreset.art

TOI MATARAU: Māoriland Hub, Main St. Open Mon-Sat 11-4pm, and by appt. Stunning traditional and contemporary Toi Māori.

TOTE MODERN ART GALLERY: Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club, Te Roto Rd. Open Fri-Sun 10am-3pm. otakipotteryclub.co.nz

YVONNE DE MILLE kitemaker, artist. yvonedemille.co.nz



Kimihia Rangahau

Vibrant, bold, intergenerational storytelling!

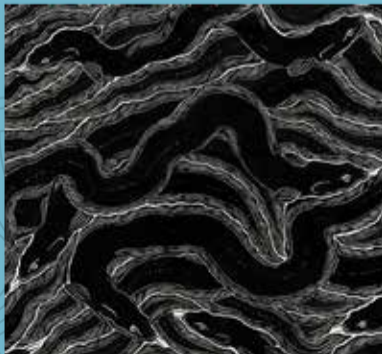
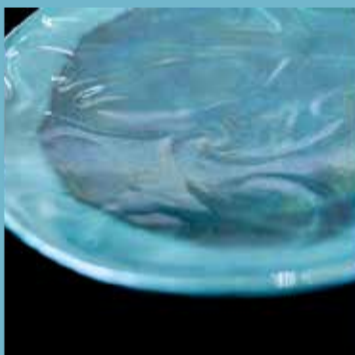
Kimihia Rangahau is part of the annual Toi Matarau ki Kāpiti event which opened in this year's Kapiti Arts Trail.

Kimihia Rangahau means to seek, to explore, to understand. This kaupapa inspires both artists and audiences to reflect, research, and discover through the power of Ngā Toi Māori. At a time of upheaval across Aotearoa and the wider world, Kimihia Rangahau offers art as a space to uplift, restore, and re-centre the heart, mind, and spirit.

This exhibition brings together the unique voices of artists from the ART Confederation – Te Āti Awa, Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Toa Rangatira – alongside guest artists from across the motu.

Highlights of the exhibition are:

- Poutokomanawa Darcy Nicholas, presenting a body of new work.
- Iwi Taketake Indigenous guest artists: Melita Raravula, Margaret August, Dorothy Grant, Vina Brown, Ed NoiseCat and Tamara Rain Bell.
- Guest artists: Annay Kara, Geneva Pomana, Madison Redman, Hikurangi Edwards, and children's designer clothing line Tamaiti by Te Ura Taripo Hoskins and Antonia Fletcher.
- Ōtaki weaver Pip Devonshire (Ngā Aho Whenua Alumnae), returning to Ōtaki with new raranga creations following her celebrated solo exhibition He Rā Mokopuna as part of Kia Emiemi at Toi Mahara.
- Josh Parata (Oro Acoustics), unveiling an innovative sculpture collection that must be seen in situ.
- Intergenerational artists father and son, Steve and Maia Gibbs.



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ŌTAKI STREET SCENE



Fun in the sun this summer

MERRY HUB-MAS! CHILDREN'S PARTY Ōtaki East Community Emergency Hub, Ōtaki Baptist Church, 2 Te Manuao Rd, Ōtaki
Saturday December 13, 1-3pm
In an emergency, your neighbours are your best source of support. Meet them in a fun, friendly and free way. Families are invited to your local Community Emergency Hub to participate in Christmas crafts, delicious candy, "Disaster-ready" games, and a chance to learn about your Community Emergency Hub. Children under 14 must be supervised by an adult. Knowing your neighbours is the best kind of preparedness!



CHRISTMAS ON THE COAST
Mazengarb Reserve, Paraparaumu
Saturday December 13, 11am-3pm
The day kicks off at 11am with a Christmas float parade, winding its way from Paraparaumu College along Mazengarb Road to the reserve. The afternoon features free activities: games, face-painting, a bounce zone, and live entertainment. Visit Santa's grotto, enjoy a picnic, or grab a bite from one of the food trucks, and don't forget to bring a can to donate for the Kāpiti Foodbank collection.



PAEKĀKĀRIKI CHRISTMAS FETE
Paekākāriki Community Hall and Main St
Saturday December 13, 10-2pm
Featuring local artisans, food stalls, music, performances, kids' activities, and lots more.



ŌTAKI CHRISTMAS MARKET
58 Main Highway, Ōtaki.
Sunday December 21, 10am-2pm.
A FREE festive event for the community where you can find unique Christmas gifts. Bring the family for a fun day and support local sellers. Free photo with Santa, Christmas trees, market stalls, delicious kai.



TASTE KĀPITI
Southward Car Museum, Paraparaumu
December 20, midday-5pm
Celebrate your year in style at Taste Kāpiti, a boutique beverage mini-festival created to showcase the unique flavors and producers of Aotearoa's regions. Enjoy a spectacular day of delicious drinks, live music, and festive vibes in a beautiful outdoor setting. Perfect for friends and families, teams and businesses, Taste Kāpiti doubles as an unforgettable end-of-year celebration. Book tickets at: eventbrite.co.nz

FESTIVAL OF POTS & GARDEN ART 2026
Anam Cara Gardens, 150 Rangiuuru Road, Ōtaki. **January 15-19, 10am-4pm (open till 8pm Friday Jan 16).**
Features exhibitions and an artisan market with pottery and garden art for purchase.



GARDENS MAGIC CONCERT SERIES
Botanic Garden, 101 Glenmore St, Wellington
January 6-10, 7-9:15pm
Gardens Magic is back with its iconic concert series, light display, kids' garden trail, and kids' explorer days. January summer nights filled with the sounds of the capital's vivacious talent, set in the Botanic Gardens ki Paekākā Soundshell. The free concerts start with a warm-up solo act from 7pm, before the main act, 8pm - 9.15pm. Come early to grab a good picnic spot and stay after to take in the stunning light display.



KĀPITI COAST HERITAGE CLUE HUNT
January 17-19, 2026
9 Museums in Kāpiti | 9 Clues | Find an answer to each clue at each museum.
You'll discover local Kāpiti heritage along the way and be in to win some epic prize packs, donated by generous local Kāpiti businesses. How to enter: Pick up your clue hunt entry form at the first museum you visit. Drop your completed entry form in the entry box at the last museum you visit. It's that easy. One prize draw entry for each correct clue answered. Find clues here: Ōtaki Heritage Museum, Ōtaki Health Camp Rotunda, The Kilns at Te Horo, Kāpiti Coast Museum, Toi Mahara Art Gallery, Kāpiti Aviation Museum, US Marines in Kāpiti, Wellington Tramway Museum, and Paekākāriki Station Museum.

ŌTAKI KITE FESTIVAL 2026
March 14-15 10am-4pm
MĀORILAND FILM FESTIVAL
Main St, Ōtaki March 24-28, 2026

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Fri 27 Feb, 7:30pm, Māoriland Hub, Ōtaki



GROOVE CAFÉ

NZTrio He Taonga Wairere
Sat 28 Feb, 6pm, Te Raukura Ki Kāpiti, Raumatī Beach

Thanks to



40 YEARS

NATIVE MINDS

Khalid Abdalla in conversation with Tainui Stephens
Sat 7 Mar, 2pm, Māoriland Hub, Ōtaki

ŌTAKI STREET SCENE



Part of the Grand Parade, showing off all winners.



Plenty of musical entertainment with the pipers at the AP&I Show.



Meet and greet the greyhounds.

Never been to the AP&I Show – time you did!

By Janine Baalbergen

If you've never been to the Horowhenua AP&I Show you don't know what you're missing.

Take the family along on Wellington Anniversary weekend, January 17-18, at the Levin Showgrounds on Victoria Street.

You can watch dogs herding sheep, and judging of beef, dairy cattle, pigs and sheep.

Beef cattle have been a part of the show for many years, but with a change in farming practices in the district the emphasis with beef has moved more towards "lifestyle" breeds of Highlands, Dexters, White Galloways and Lowlines.

The animal nursery, run by Levin and Horowhenua Vets, is always one of the highlights of the show weekend. There are animals of all shapes and sizes, and fun activities for the whole family. Talk to the team about all your animal needs, and get up close and personal with all the animals.

Enjoy horse jumping, the ponies and Clydesdale horses, the wood chopping competition, and the sheep shearing (Sunday only), which attracts top men and women in their field. Then visit the trade show where local businesses and clubs tell you what it is they do.

The home industries (a new venue directly inside the main gate) is where you will find exhibitors competing in different

sections – cooking, jams, preserves, needlework, crafts, knitting and crochet, creative fibre, handspun and weaving, and classes for the junior age groups.

Let the kids loose (this is not included in the entry fees!) at the Mahon Amusement Park, and the Fonterra Barrel Train. You can buy food, coffee, ice-cream, or bring your own lunch and have a picnic in the shade of the trees around the oval while watching the horses.

The grand parade is on Saturday at 2pm when participants show off their winners.

Show entry is \$40 for a family of two adults and three kids, each day. Individual tickets per day are \$15 for adults, \$5 for those under 5, with preschoolers free.



Annual AP&I membership is \$50, which provides free entry for three adults and two kids as well as a car pass on both days.

■ For more see: levinapishow.co.nz or contact the office at 06 368 6539.

Photos Janine Baalbergen



Horowhenua AP&I Show

Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 January 2026

Fun for all the family

Come and enjoy watching:

- woodchopping
- shearing
- judging of beef and dairy cattle, pigs, sheep
- visit the animal nursery
- watch horse show jumping, ponies, alpacas fleeces
- Mahon Amusement, Fonterra barrel train
- visit Home Industries: full of arts, crafts, baking, preserving
- poultry, observe dog trials, enjoy music, food court
- Meet the Clydesdale horses
- Visit the Trade space with business and clubs exhibiting



Info: Jill Timms
06 368 6539
levinapishow.co.nz

Entry fees: \$40 for a family of two adults and three children. Individual tickets per day are: \$15 for adults, \$5 for those under fifteen years of age, with preschoolers free.

Membership \$50: free entry for three adults, two children as well as a car pass on both Saturday and Sunday.

ŌTAKI STREET SCENE



MY ŌTAKI KAI

By DEBBI CARSON



Memories and recipes

By Debbi Carson

Everyone has their favourite Christmas foods.

Often they're special because of the memories they evoke – Christmas at Nana and Grandad's when the whole whānau would gather and feast on Nana's own traditional recipes.

Some of us can still remember when roast chicken was a treat that was served up only at Christmas. It might have been bought at Self Help down town, provided by a generous neighbour with chooks, or even home-killed if you had a quarter acre section (as many did in Ōtaki) with fruit trees, a garden, and chickens that scratched around in the soil.

On Christmas Day, us kids would have the task of shelling fresh peas from the garden, and helping to make the required mint sauce, made as it should be with fresh mint – also from the garden.

Both my grandmothers – Cootes and Bird – had voluminous recipe books. They



had clippings from the *Woman's Weekly* and scratchy notes hastily written down when an aunt or neighbour shared their culinary knowledge.

Although I don't know what might have happened to those books, I've got notes with some of those recipes. They are special treasures of special times.

And when Christmas rolls around, I remember those nanas as I whip up one of their recipes.

Preparing one of their meals brings back the long talks we had way back then as I helped with the cooking. And the aromas – not just of fresh baking – but in the case of Nana Cootes, the not unpleasant drift of one her Capstan Plain cigarettes as she worked.

Memories are special, and although by definition they are in the past, I try every year to give my own mokopuna new memories. They'll be remembered long after I'm gone, and so much more valuable than any gift under the Christmas tree.

Easy peasy Ambrosia for Xmas

Ambrosia! Everyone has a different twist on this classic delicious Kiwi dessert. The name Ambrosia traces its origins back to ancient Greece and derives from the Greek word ambrotos, meaning immortal. In Greek mythology, Ambrosia was also the food or drink of the gods, believed to grant them eternal youth and immortality. Ambrosia dessert is perfect for a crowd. It can be served in a family sized bowl to feed a crowd or in individual glasses. Here is my version I'll be making this Christmas, serves 8.

- 300mls cream
- 500g Greek yoghurt
- 180g bag marshmallows, chopped
- punnet of strawberries, chopped
- punnet of blueberries
- fresh, pitted cherries halved
- almond flakes
- 6 meringues, broken up
- 2 Flake bars, crumbled

Whip the cream to medium peaks, fold yogurt in. Add chopped marshmallows, fruit, almond flakes, and one of the crumbled flake bars. Combine well, and refrigerate for a few hours (although we have been known to eat it straight away!). Add meringues just before serving, top with a strawberry, cherry, some blueberries and the remaining flake.

Variations: use a sweetener, or flavoured yogurt, any other berries or fruit (apricots, peaches, etc), nuts, chocolate. The choice is all yours! – Debbi



Ōtaki Combined Churches Carol Service

4pm-5.20pm Sunday 14 December
Rangiātea Church, 33 Te Rauparaha Street, Ōtaki.



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HUATAU/Opinion

HE TIROHANGA HOU: HENITI BUICK

Finding my rhythm: first month on council and what's ahead for Ōtaki

Last month has felt a bit like running a race – and fittingly, I literally ran one.

I represented Kāpiti Coast District Council in my first ever half marathon and surprised myself by finishing in under two hours. It reminded me that pace, preparation, and mindset matter – a lesson that's proving equally true in my early days as your Ōtaki Ward councillor.

These last four weeks have been full-on. From inaugural council and community board meetings to setting up our governance structure, e-decision training, and countless briefings, the learning curve has been steep. At the same time, I've really enjoyed getting to know our council team and the positive, collaborative energy around the table.

One thing I'm learning quickly is how to

balance responsibilities as elected members. I was chosen to represent Ōtaki – my home, my whānau, my community – and that responsibility sits firmly with me. But I also have a duty to make decisions that serve the whole district, and sometimes those perspectives don't fully align.

Navigating that space takes thoughtfulness, transparency, and a commitment to fairness. I'm still finding my rhythm, but I'm confident I'll get there.

A highlight this month was attending the Te Maruata and Young Elected Members conference in Wellington. It brought together councillors from throughout the country, and it was reassuring to hear how many of our challenges – from housing and infrastructure,



to climate resilience and community expectations – are shared nationwide. It also reminded me how important it is that Ōtaki continues to have a strong voice not only locally but also nationally.

I also had the chance to speak with the Amicus group at the RSA about my early impressions of council and what I'm looking forward to. These conversations are invaluable, and I appreciate every person who has reached out, raised a concern, or offered encouragement. The volume of requests coming to councillors is high, but it reinforces how deeply people care about our place.

One thing I learned from that kōrero is that

many in our community aren't aware of the Antenna app, which allows you to submit service requests directly to council. I'd encourage everyone to download it – it's one of the easiest ways to log issues or ask for help from KCDC.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the community interest in the High Court judgement regarding Moy Place. The council has received the decision, and the chief executive will bring a paper to the December 11 council meeting, as directed by the court. As with all decisions before us, elected members must keep an open mind until all information is formally presented. What I can say is that I understand how important this matter is to Ōtaki, and I am committed to careful, informed, and fair decision-making.

■ *Heniti is the Ōtaki Ward councillor*

CAM'S CORNER: CAM BUTLER

The good, the average, the bad

Tēnā koutou i te whanau.

We're back!

Elections are a funny thing as they are often a publicity contest rather than a true test of how good someone is at their job. However, Ōtaki was blessed with an excellent range of candidates for both the ward councillor role and community board roles. And we have a great team on board for 2025-2028.



While we know who won I want to pay mention to Chris Papps and Shelly Warwick who were not re-elected, and thank them so much for the time and effort they have put into the Ōtaki community. This is often without recognition due to the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes.

The good

The wastewater pipe and Old State Highway 1 revocation have been progressing well and we can see obvious changes with the Aotaki roundabout now 100 percent clear and the BP roundabout now open except Rāhui Road. New footpaths, new crossings, new gardens and new seats are looking great on Old SH1 as the revocation moves along.

Te Horo is getting a bridge to connect its footpaths along Old SH1, too.

Riverbank Road lights are lit up and working well (no, it wasn't suitable for a roundabout) after a few delays and one annoying set-up day.

The average

To the pain in the proverbial drivers who feel they need to run a red light at Riverbank Road to save them maybe 30 seconds max. Because you have triggered the sensors you make

multiple vehicles wait longer at a red light to "let you go" afterwards. Poor form!

The bad

You might think that you are over the roadworks but boy the roadworkers doing their job are well over Ōtaki! Read on:

It is deeply saddening the level of hostility and disrespect being shown to people who are trying to make our town a better place. The way civil

workers are treated, many of whom are just doing their jobs to support their families, is unacceptable.

Racism, verbal abuse, being spat at, head butting, and outright threats/aggression should never be tolerated, yet this standard seems to be an ongoing daily event and it is NOT OK.

There's been safety equipment – put in place to protect you – being moved or tampered with because it was seen as an inconvenience. These set-ups exist because previous, simpler ones were ignored or disrespected.

The theft of gear not only endangers lives but also drives up project costs, which in turn affects rates and budgets. If you're wondering why things cost more, this is part of the reason. Safety measures are there for a reason.

This behaviour is not only a poor show of manaakitanga, it undermines the safety and wellbeing of everyone in the community.

Let's be better.

- Like our Ōtaki Community Board Facebook page.
- Next Ōtaki Community Board meeting is 7pm on Tuesday, March 10.

■ *Cam is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board*

TE HORO OUTLOOK: MICHAEL MOORE

Protecting our endangered dotterel

As the summer season unfolds, our beloved Kāpiti Coast transforms into a vibrant hub of activity, especially on and around our beaches.

Yet, amid the sun and surf, I ask to remember the fragile wildlife that shares this environment, particularly the endangered pohowera (banded dotterel) and tūturiwhatu (New Zealand northern dotterel).

The breeding season runs through to March. Once abundant along our coastline, the dotterel has faced a dramatic decline over the past century. Habitat destruction, the introduction of predators like rats and stoats, and increased human activity, have all contributed to their reduced numbers. Today, the dotterel is considered one of New Zealand's most at-risk bird species. The northern dotterel population is estimated to be about 2500, whereas the southern dotterel, a subspecies, is critically endangered at 100 birds.

Please be aware of these fragile birds, especially around our streams and river estuaries where these gorgeous wee birds build their nests and raise their young. Our streams and river mouths are extremely important for shorebirds. They provide nesting spots and the food basket that supports them through the nesting season and raising their young. But they can also be busy places for human activities, so for the sake of the birds and their habitat, these areas especially need our protection.

The rarity of the dotterel underscores the importance of conservation. Protecting these birds means safeguarding the delicate balance of our coastal ecosystems. When dotterels thrive,

it indicates a healthy environment, benefiting other native species and maintaining the natural beauty of our coastline.

To protect these birds, we must take collective action.

This includes respecting designated nesting areas and adhering to local guidelines that limit vehicle access. For instance, vehicles can easily

crush eggs or disturb nesting sites, so limiting their presence in sensitive areas is crucial.

The Waikanae River mouth and sand spit is a scientific reserve, so a no-go area for dogs (even on lead), horses, and vehicles. Please keep pets on leashes and away from nesting zones, especially around the estuary and the Mangaone Lagoon and stream at the Te Horo Beach river mouth. Even the friendliest dog can unintentionally cause harm to these vulnerable chicks.

We can all foster a sense of stewardship among locals and visitors by understanding the dotterel's plight and encourage responsible behaviour that helps build a culture of conservation. Vital research and conservation programmes among many communities in Waikanae and Te Horo include habitat restoration and predator control. These efforts play a significant role in boosting dotterel populations.

The dotterel represents more than just a species in need; it's a testament to our commitment to the environment, and by working together and taking thoughtful steps, we can ensure that future generations will continue to enjoy the beauty of these shorebirds and the rich biodiversity of the Kāpiti Coast.

■ *Michael is a member of Waikanae Community Board and a Te Horo Beach resident*



THE ELECTORATE: TIM COSTLEY

Christmas a time to reflect, to reset, and to reimagine

First up I just want to wish you all a safe and relaxing summer, and hope you all get time with loved ones and a chance to unwind as we head into a new year.

Christmas is a time to look back, and acknowledge all that the last year has held, and to look forward in anticipation. It's a chance to reflect, to reset, and to reimagine.

This year, like every other, has held its challenges, but it's also had some highlights worth celebrating. Great local events like the Kite Festival, Maoriland Film Festival, the Arts Trail or the Festival of Pots. I've been at them all

and loved them.

I also loved celebrating the start of the new Expressway connecting Ōtaki and Levin. It wasn't without challenges. Many of you campaigned with me six years ago when it was first cancelled. And this year many of you again supported me as I fought to the last minute to change the design, and get us a full interchange at Taylor's Road, meaning that at the north end of Ōtaki you can turn on or off the expressway to head either north or south. This is a critical link for our town and it was



really important. Even when councils wanted to prioritise Manakau and Levin over Ōtaki, I stood up and fought. That's what I've always tried to do for our town and our region, regardless of who is in Government. And that's what I'll keep on doing as your local MP.

I'm really proud that we got the design fixed and the road started. It has become reality.

I'm also proud of the new Breast Cancer Clinic in Waikanae, the Health Shuttle Trial I got funded for Kapiti, and projects right across the region from the new school crossing I got after Horowhenua council said no, to and extra 50%

of property funding for every single school.

There is more to celebrate, but there is also more to do. And that's why we keep one eye to the future at Christmas. I want to keep delivering improvements to local health care. It's such an important issue for our region, and while we've had some local wins, I'll always fight for more because Ōtaki deserves it.

I wish you a great summer, and look forward to connecting with you all in the New Year.

Merry Christmas!

■ *Tim is the Ōtaki electorate MP*

Empower communities and we empower people

In New Zealand, civil emergencies aren't a matter of if, but when.

These risks include earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, severe storms and flooding, but let's not forget pandemics, infrastructure failure, and terrorism.

We might ask our local authorities and government: "What are you doing to help communities prepare and mitigate some of the risks?"

The inevitable answer from authorities is "a considerable amount". However, when "the

JUST A THOUGHT



FRASER CARSON

big one" happens it will be the resilience of each community that really makes the difference.

Just as it's well known that good infrastructure (roads, bridges and buildings, etc) put a community in good stead for an emergency, so too is the less obvious stuff of cultural infrastructure – people being prepared, having knowledge about what to do and an ability to pull together in a crisis.

In other words, if communities don't empower themselves, don't hold your breath that authorities and government can do it from the outside.

Emergency preparedness can come from social cohesion and the engagement and resilience of citizens, and from self-empowered communities.

It isn't a separate thing from daily life – it's the same trust that lowers crime, the same



Pixabay photo

connections that help young people thrive, the same resilience that fuels a strong local economy.

For example, if you know others in your neighbourhood, it's possible you might lend a hand to those in need. It might be the elderly woman next door or the mother with a disabled child.

Then, in an emergency, you have connections and knowledge that they'll need extra help.

But community emergency preparation is often submerged under a raft of supposedly more important issues a community faces. We invest billions in concrete and steel, while the invisible scaffolding of trust, knowledge, and neighbourliness is what holds us together when the ground shakes.

If these things seem obvious, I'm left wondering why we're getting it so wrong?

Instead of social cohesion and empowered

communities, we appear to be heading the opposite way, with a loss of meaningful interconnections and trust.

Part of the answer might be that local and central governments aren't too fussed on "community empowerment" because their focus is top-down – projects, money control and risk management.

That might also go some way to explaining why many people no longer feel connected to the important things that matter in their daily lives and community.

At a recent conference I saw an example of that disconnection. A prominent New Zealand economist said something profoundly obvious: "Economies are for people."

But aren't economies for wealth creation and business? One could assume this, given financial and investment news is generally confined to the finance and business sections of our media.

"Economies are for people." He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.

Come to think of it, doesn't the same apply to:

"Infrastructure is for people."

"Education is for people."

"Communities are for people."

We shouldn't wait for disaster to test our cohesion. Let's build it now – through neighbourhood networks, shared knowledge, and a culture that remembers that communities are for people.

Disclaimer: Flightdec is working with local communities, using specialised online capabilities, alongside Hono – Māori Emergency Management Network and the Natural Hazards Inc (capability cluster).

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



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Know what you're in for if you're tempted to buy now, pay later

The holiday season is nearly here and it's a great time for spending time doing things we love with people we love.

GOOD ADVICE



MARIA FYVIE

It's also a great time for spending more money than we'd planned – and plenty of businesses are trying to make it easy for us to give them our dollars. So what are your rights and obligations when it comes to buying now and paying later? Buy now pay later (BNPL) logos like Afterpay, Zip,

and Laybuy by Klarna are common at the online shopping checkout and increasingly in-store, too. They offer the ability to spread the cost of goods or services over a period of time while having already received the goods or services – essentially you're taking out a short-term, interest-free, loan.

When you enter a BNPL agreement, the lender is required to:

- help you (the borrower) make an informed decision
- treat you fairly – at the beginning of the process as well as if you become unable to make payments
- tell you about any default fees, including how much the default fees are and when they will be charged – they can't charge you unreasonable fees if you find you can't keep up payments.

You need to:

- read the lender's terms and conditions – know what you're signing up to
- keep paying the agreed amount each cycle (weekly, fortnightly or as agreed) – this means keeping an eye on your bank account balance so you have enough money for payments to go out
- let the lender know if your circumstances change and you can no longer afford payments – the sooner the better. You can request changes to the contract if unforeseen circumstances such as illness, loss of employment or the end of a relationship cause you hardship.

If your lender goes out of business, as some have in the past, you must maintain your payments – the debt you have still exists.

If the goods you bought when taking out the BNPL agreement are faulty, you're still covered under consumer law. Start by getting in touch with the store you bought the goods from and have a chat to them about what you'd like fixed.

If you're finding your BNPL payments hard to manage, or would like any budgeting help, you can contact CAB Ōtaki and we can make an appointment for you to see Levin Budget Services. They can see you in our Ōtaki office – you don't have to go to Levin. It's a free and confidential service available to anyone who would like help with family and household budgeting.

• See our Citizens Advice Bureau volunteers at 65a Main Street, 10am-1pm Monday-Friday, call us on 364 8664 or email otaki@cab.org.nz
 ■ Maria is secretary of Kāpiti CAB

The meaning of life – and human dependence on electrical energy

All life exists through a dynamic interaction between demand and supply.

Every organism must continually balance its need for energy with its ability to access it; when that balance fails, the consequence is predictable – correction, collapse, or death. Humans are no exception.

But among all life forms, humans uniquely depend on electrical energy. When supply fails, the correction is instantaneous: power cuts, or waste when generated energy has nowhere to go. In both cases, the system reacts with an immediate, corrective shock.

Human electricity demand varies by hour, day, and season. We sleep, work,

play, and rest on broadly similar rhythms, creating predictable cycles. Yet for most resources, fluctuations in demand pose little immediate risk as long as the long-term balance is maintained.

Electrical energy is different. Its demand-supply relationship must always be equal, moment by moment. Any mismatch is instantly felt through outages or inefficiencies.

Electricity, however essential, is not a primary energy source. It is a conversion from other forms:

PEOPLE'S POLITICS



PHIL MALPAS

water, wind, coal, gas, geothermal heat, or nuclear mass. Each of these sources depends on mechanical action – usually a turbine. Any disruption means biological failure: the “death” of supply (power cuts) or the “destruction” of unused potential.

There is one profound exception: solar energy. This arrives continuously, freely, abundantly, and, if unused, is lost harmlessly. It is the foundational energy source for almost all life. Einstein's $E = mc^2$ hints at its

scale: the Sun's mass is roughly 355,000 times that of Earth, and its radiant output dwarfs all human consumption many millions of times over.

Through photovoltaic technology, we can convert solar radiation directly into electricity – without turbines, combustion, or pollution. Solar panels are low-cost, scalable, passive, and accessible to households, communities, and businesses alike.

Solar allows everyone to participate, reducing our reliance on huge capital infrastructure while conserving other finite energy resources.

All business activity operates under the same fundamental rule: assets and liabilities must balance, and demand

must match supply. We measure the consequences of imbalance using money, but money itself has no intrinsic value. It records value, rather than creating it.

When demand exceeds supply, prices rise – a signal of shortage. When supply exceeds demand, prices fall – a signal of waste.

In both cases, the economic system is mimicking the logic of biological systems: imbalance forces correction. The real forces at play are the underlying flows of energy, resources, labour, and human need.

■ Phil is a writer and advocate for cooperative systems and sustainable energy – blogs at Substack.com

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CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOURS 2025/26

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support this year, and advise you of our Christmas/New Year working hours.

We will be closed from 4.30pm Thursday, December 18, 2025.

Normal business will resume on Monday, January 5, 2026.

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please note: a call out fee will apply

We would like to wish you all a very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**, and look forward to your continued support next year.

All the best for the festive season.

from Dean and the team at Riverbank Engineering.

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Find the levers to move our country's biggest rocks

Worry; verb; to subject to persistent or nagging attention or effort; to shake or pull at with the teeth

My mum pointed out recently she was concerned about how worried I seemed to be about the state of the world. And (as usual) she was right.

I am worried. Every week, it feels like there is another challenge that needs a response. Another worrying change from the people elected to lead our country. Another big-money, industry, or ideology-funded rock dropped in the way of us being a healthy and just society. Another heavy lump creating a bigger divide between landlords and renters, tobacco companies and the nurses who share the cost our population pays to them, the New Zealanders expecting clean drinking water, and the Australian mining companies receiving law custom-written for them through the Regulatory Standards or Fast Track bill.

Our leaders are dropping these rocks onto the fabric of our society and then posting Facebook ads to convince us that the potholes in the road are the biggest problems we face as a country. But those divides affect society. And I mean the whole of society. It would be easy to look at where I spend my time and action, particularly at this time of the year when I trade sleep, money, and whānau to help with Shoebox Christmas,

and to think I'm singularly focused on one part of our society, and that I maybe don't spend much time thinking about anyone else.

I won't try and argue that, but the reality is, countries do significantly better as a whole when there is less of a gap between the haves and have-nots. The more inequalities in a country, the worse off the whole country is.

This has been proven across most of the developed countries on Earth. Inequality makes much more of a difference to a country's collective well-being than economic growth. The research and data are really clear. I can't paint actual graphs with words (Google Richard Wilkinson if you want the real thing), but otherwise imagine a graph:

On one upwards axis of the graph we have the measurement of about 20 of the things we would call measures of "success" or "failure" as a country: health, lifespan, how much we trust each other, violence, mental health, the ability to be born poor and end up "sorted", educational achievement, etc.

On the sideways axis of the graph is the country's inequality score (the gap between rich and poor). If you put every "rich developed" country on that graph – US, Norway, New Zealand, Australia, Japan etc – you'll see the fewer inequalities in the country, the better it performs across all those measures of success.

The countries with big gaps (US, I'm looking at you) perform really poorly in most of those markers of success. They fail as a country.

It doesn't matter how "rich" the country is. Their GDP or economic growth doesn't affect those measures of success. Inequality does.

Also, this is at a country level – it doesn't just mean the poor do better when there's less of a gap. The rich live longer, trust more in society

etc. People across all those layers of society live healthier and are happier.

"The average well-being of our societies is not dependent any longer on national income and economic growth. That's very important in poorer countries, but not in the rich developed world. But the differences between us and where we are in relation to each other now matter very much." - Richard Wilkinson

This makes sense. Depending on your beliefs, we are designed/evolved/computer-game-programmed to be a part of a society, community, tribe, clan, village. So when our society isn't functioning well as a whole, neither do we as individuals.

So why are our leaders ignoring the multitude of things that could be done to reduce those inequalities and our overall well-being?

So far (70% through their term) the only thing we've been consistently focused on as a country is pleasing the groups that donated the most to the coalition parties. What have we been in the international news for recently?

As a country, we've spent thousands of hours, and who knows how many millions of dollars in governmental staff time stopping the "Māorification" of the only home on Earth for the Māori culture. The goal seems to be to block out of that horrible reminder that New Zealand, Aotearoa, Home, or whatever you want to call it, is actually not made up of one culture or one group of people with one language.

Our government has spent its time on funding cuts for those who need it most, paid ads attacking teachers, prioritising politicians' time on ideological beliefs that Māori culture isn't part of New Zealand's culture, cutting school lunches for kids, forcing over 100,000 people to spend weeks protesting a far-right

politician trying to rewrite Te Tiriti o Waitangi, pushing through the Regulatory Standards Bill when 98% of submissions opposed it, ignoring Supreme Court decisions in favour of coalition agreements, etc, etc, etc.

Every week it feels like something new has needed a response. A new rock dropped in our way, and I've always felt like I needed to respond personally. That's how my other collectives, my iwi and my marae work. Those who can cook, do the cooking, those who can karanga, do the karanga, those who can welcome visitors on the marae do that. And I can respond, so I should.

But back to Mum's point. Those rocks won't be moved by worrying.

I've had to think about where I spend my time and what rocks I can move. Stop looking at the news and spend that time pulling on the things I know have a chance at moving that weight.

For me, right now, that's Shoebox Christmas – reminding tens of thousands of our tamariki that the world cares about them, so that they care about the world. Giving our grown-ups an easy way to express aroha. To DO the work of community, not just live in the same neighbourhood.

The other lever I've just finished building is Kaha Create (kahacreate.com), a platform that changes how we share knowledge and learning, and something that will create intergenerational success and lessen the gaps so we all succeed.

In case you don't have a mum like mine to remind you: think about where your efforts are best placed. The thing making you angriest might not be it.

■ Pera is a rap singer, writer, and founder of Shoebox Christmas. He received the Local Hero award at the New Zealander of the Year awards in 2019.



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MAHI MĀRA/Gardening

Stinging nettle and comfrey tea – the great garden tag team

Fermented herbal teas are the kind of solution I love – easily made at home, deceptively potent and no negative fallout.

At this time of year there are two in particular that come to the fore – nettle and comfrey, tag-teaming to strengthen the foliage, which in turn improves disease resilience by strengthening the leaf coating (cuticle).

Leaf cuticle is a point of entry for pathogens, all of which arrive in various ways. Some dissolve the cuticle with enzymes and sneak in that way, others are opportunistic, using openings created by wind/pest/human.

Stinging nettle (*urtica dioica*) is loaded to the brim with minerals and vitamins, at service to the plant kingdom entire, and you and I also – a little wilted nettle with a fried egg is a fine breakfast.

Amazing at any time in its life cycle, but when it's gearing up to seed, as it is now, the silica content rises – fancy silica being the very

mineral needed for this job. Nature aligns!

Comfrey brings calcium (among other things), a key ingredient for fruit production. Adding it regularly from now on in greatly reduces the stress that comes with low calcium levels. Add a couple of cups to your backpack sprayer, include EM and seaweed if you have them, then shower the orchard and vegie garden with cell strengthening goodness. This feed is especially

useful when crops are under par or disease pressure is high in an inclement season. Use it monthly if all is well, or as much as weekly if your trees/plants are stressed in any way.

If you have none to hand, make a brew today. Tis super quick and easy and will be ready in about a week if weather is warm.

Make tea

- Gather enough nettles and comfrey to fill a 10l bucket with herb. Pack it in.
- Boil a pot of water and pour it over the herb, then top the bucket up with unchlorinated/unflouridated water.
- Leave it in a warm, sunny spot – I use the greenhouse during cooler weather. Sit a lid loosely on it. Give it a good, whirly stir every day. It's ready to use when it stops bubbling – anywhere from 7 to 14 days. In cool weather, it'll take longer.

When it's ready, filter it into a clean bucket through a sack or some such to remove any little bits with the potential to block the sprayer up. Empty the sieved bits onto your compost pile or around deserving plants – your tomatoes love it. Store the juice in a dark cool place and use it up by autumn.

Make no mistake, these sprays aren't the saving grace, rather the cherry on the top of your diverse, living, naturally healthy garden. They contribute overall to steadily building and improving plant health.

Shift your focus in this direction, towards a few gentle, well-timed nudges. That's all your food garden needs.

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



Brewing up stinging nettle tea.



Harvest stinging nettle with gloves on.



Making liquid feed with comfrey.

EDIBLE GARDEN



KATH IRVINE

RONGOĀ RĀKAU

Getting started

There are many pathways and levels to learning rongoā. One of the most valued is learning through your own whakapapa, where knowledge is carried, held, and passed down.

When you begin this journey, the first place to turn is always the forest itself. Go into the ngahere. Learn its whakapapa – the story of the whenua it stands upon, the pūrākau shaped by that place, and the history held within its soil. Come to know the mana whenua and the kaitiaki who hold guardianship over that land. Deepening your understanding of the spiritual guardians of the ngahere is essential, for these relationships form the foundation of trust, respect, and connection. You cannot truly learn rongoā without honouring its spiritual dimension.

You must learn to feel the interrelationship between all things. Through observation and developing a relationship with nature, you begin to understand the true essence of Rongoā Māori. When you weave rongoā into your daily life, a deeper and more meaningful understanding naturally unfolds. It is a lifetime of learning and a way of living.

The heart of rongoā begins with connection – slowing down, being present, and allowing the forest to teach you. Start at the forest edge. Learn the trees who stand as protectors of the inner ngahere. These rākau form the first layer of guardianship. They are often your first teachers, showing you how the ngahere supports itself, layer by layer.

Focus on one plant at a time. Begin with the rākau that naturally draws your attention. Get to know it as you would a close friend. Spend time with it. Observe it. Sit with it.

Learn to perceive a plant's rongoā yourself before turning to outside research. Write about the plant from your own perspective — what you feel its role might be for Papatūānuku. When your matakiteanga and senses guide you first, your perception strengthens and your understanding deepens in a way that is uniquely yours. This is how a genuine and meaningful relationship with the rākau begins.

Remember that every plant's first purpose is to nourish Papatūānuku. Only from that foundation can we begin to understand how it may support the tinana, hinengaro, and wairua.

Through this process, your understanding of rongoā will deepen naturally. You will come to know not only the individual plants, but also how they grow, communicate, and support one another as a collective.

Rongoā is a journey of reconnection – to the land, to the plants, and to yourself. May your steps be steady, your senses open, and your heart attuned to the quiet teachings of the ngahere. Walk gently. Listen deeply. Let the forest guide you home.

RONGOĀ



JOANNE HAKARAIA

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

HAUORA-PŪTAIO /Health-Science

Soft claims, hard truths for natural products

Because natural health products have not undergone rigorous clinical trials or met strict medical regulatory standards, explicit medical claims cannot be made about them.

Consequently, advertisers of natural health products must be careful not to make direct therapeutic claims: such as, “relieves pain”, “prevents colds and flu”, “fights infection”, or “lowers blood pressure”. Words that convey a direct therapeutic effect (such as “heals”,

HEALTH SCIENCE



DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

“treats”, “cures”, “prevents”, or “improves”) are not permitted.

In New Zealand the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) sets the advertising rules through its Therapeutic and Health Advertising Code. This code permits advertisers

of natural health products to use only “soft” general wellness descriptors, such as “supports immune health”, “maintains healthy bones”, or “promotes a calm and relaxed mood”.

The Association of New Zealand Advertisers (Anza) administers the Therapeutic Advertising Pre-vetting Service (TAPS), which reviews advertising for natural health products to ensure compliance with the code, with compliant ads assigned a TAPS number.

For example, a New Zealand advertisement states that a remedy made from the herb Marsh tea “supports normal joint mobility – TAPS no: PP1349”. But this is a homeopathic remedy with a 30C dilution – meaning it has been diluted 100-fold 30 times, so dilute it contains no actual molecules of the original herb. Clearly, there is no scientific basis for this remedy’s effectiveness, and multiple high-quality clinical reviews show that such highly diluted homeopathic remedies do not work beyond a placebo effect.

The TAPS number only indicates compliance with advertising and wording rules; it does not constitute scientific validation or official endorsement of any health benefit – though TAPS approval may confer a sense of product credibility to consumers.

General wellness claims can mislead customers by strongly suggesting therapeutic benefits. For instance, a person with a chronic condition such as rheumatoid arthritis could easily interpret the phrase “supports normal joint mobility” as something beneficial for them, something that could improve their joint mobility – a therapeutic claim not permitted for natural health products.

Advertisers can exploit this linguistic loophole by making a general wellness claim (e.g. “supports a healthy immune system”) that technically does not trigger a therapeutic claim, while leaving it to the consumer to interpret it as a possible therapeutic benefit (e.g. “could help prevent a cold”). This allows advertisers to sidestep the requirement for credible clinical proof of therapeutic effectiveness while leading consumers to believe their products have some therapeutic benefit. Why else would consumers

spend their money, if not for the expectation of a tangible benefit?

The multibillion-dollar multivitamin industry leans heavily on approved broad wellness rhetoric, claiming multivitamins “support” everything from energy production and nervous system function to immune health, and healthy skin and hair. Yet repeated high-quality studies show that multivitamins provide little to no measurable benefit in preventing diseases or improving overall health and are generally unnecessary unless a person has a specific deficiency or medical condition.

As a specific example, multivitamin advertisements frequently promise to “support heart health”, but proven validated strategies include balanced diet, regular exercise, and stress management – not supplements.

If pressed to substantiate claims that their products are effective, advertisers often rely on studies with flawed methodologies, or on insufficient evidence, such as in vitro experiments that do not demonstrate clinical effectiveness.

The Advertising Standards Authority code states that health advertisements shall observe a high standard of social responsibility (Principle 1) and must be truthful, balanced, and not misleading (Principle 2). In particular, advertisements must not mislead or be likely to mislead, whether by implication, exaggeration, unrealistic claims, or false representation.

Yet the code itself enables advertisers to use weakly supported claims and wording that readily leads consumers to believe unproven products offer therapeutic benefits and have official approval. That is, the code fosters

advertiser behaviour that could be considered misleading under the Fair Trading Act.

Critics argue that, as a non-governmental self-regulatory body funded by the very industry it regulates, the Advertising Standards Authority is reluctant to jeopardize advertisers’ commercial interests.

And the Association of New Zealand Advertisers (which administers TAPS) is an advocacy group for advertisers, with its lobbying prioritising commercial interests over consumer protection. It has consistently opposed proposals for tighter rules on advertising of natural health products, arguing it would be over-regulation and limit consumer freedom of choice.

This aligns with the growing health-freedom movement, which emphasises individual autonomy in health decision making and has opposed legislation such as the Natural Health Products Bill, contending it would impose excessive regulation on advertising and limit access to supplements and natural health remedies.

All-in-all, circumstances are conducive for misleading advertising in the natural health sector. Consumers need to be careful – always do your own independent research beyond the claims of advertisers trying to sell you something.

Don’t get me wrong: natural products can be valuable, and I am a big supporter of them – but only when they genuinely deliver results.

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

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Taaringaroa 88 Mill Road

Whole of life vaccinations available!



This is a one off clinic, please keep an eye on our socials for future events!



Paws for thought – new rental rules in effect

Get ready for a furry shake-up in the rental market. From December 1, the days of “no pets allowed” clauses being the final word are over.

The new Residential Tenancies Amendment Act 2024 introduces ground-breaking rules that mean landlords can no longer issue a blanket ban on tenants having pets.

The reform, which aims to create “firm, fair, and readily enforceable rules” for both parties, mandates that landlords cannot unreasonably withhold consent when a tenant requests to have a pet.

A new leash on tenancy agreements

While this is great news for animal lovers, the new law comes with a new set of responsibilities. Landlords can now ask for an additional two weeks’ rent as a “pet bond”, on top of the standard four-week bond. They are also entitled to set reasonable conditions, such

as requiring professional carpet cleaning at the end of the tenancy.

Crucially, tenants will now be fully liable for any damage their furry, feathered, or scaled friends might cause – beyond fair wear and tear. This shifts the financial risk for pet-related mishaps squarely onto the tenant, covering damage that might have previously been a cost for the landlord. This aligns with principles where tenants are held responsible for damage, for example damage caused by a dog urinating on a carpet.

The ‘reasonable’ debate

The big question on everyone’s lips is, what counts as “reasonable”? Legal experts predict a flurry of cases heading to the Tenancy Tribunal to test the boundaries of this new rule.

The law appears to focus strictly on the

MATTERS OF LAW



CORINNA SIPPEL

suitability of the property and the pet, overlooking a landlord’s personal situation. Some landlords might be allergic to cats and they’re renting out their house only temporarily. In such cases, there might be a “structural imbalance” where the law gives no weight to such legitimate concerns. In these cases, a landlord might face significant personal difficulty, though terminating a tenancy on grounds of hardship requires proving it would be unreasonable to continue.

Conversely the changes might simply formalise the inherent risks of being a landlord. For prospective landlords there are two options: either forgo renting or accept pets that are suitable for the premises, backed by the new

protections around bonds and liability for damage.

Responding to the request

Under the new regime, tenants can even ask for a pet mid-way through their tenancy. Landlords must provide their decision in writing within 21 days. This process is similar to the existing framework for tenants requesting fixtures or alterations, where consent cannot be unreasonably withheld and a timely response is required. If a landlord fails to respond within the timeframe, their silence is taken as consent.

Ultimately, the true impact of these changes will be shaped by the first wave of disputes heard by the Tenancy Tribunal. Both landlords and tenants will be watching closely as the new rules are put to the test.

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

Time to stop, breathe, and reflect on who you were

Here we are again, the final stretch of the year, when business owners slow down just enough to realise:

“I’ve been going full speed all year ... but have I actually moved closer to the life and business I want?”

This is the moment every smart owner should stop, breathe, and reflect – not on how busy you’ve been, or how many crises you handled, or how many jobs you squeezed in before Christmas. Those are symptoms.

The real question, the one that will shape your next 24 months, is: Who were you this year? Not what you did. Not what you achieved. Not what you hoped for.

Who. Were. You.

Because if you want 2026 to look radically different, the starting point isn’t a goal, a to-do list, or a new tool. It’s identity. It’s mindset. It’s the person you are becoming.

And nothing captures this more clearly than this simple and most powerful formula:

Be x Do = Have

This is the life success formula, and December

is the perfect time to put it to work. Three words that can change your destination in 2026, if done right.

1. BE – Who you are determines everything you’ll have

“Be” is your internal operating system. It’s your standards, your thinking, your beliefs, your identity, and your self-discipline.

Here’s the truth most people avoid: You cannot outperform your identity. You always return to your standards. If you see yourself as the overworked operator, that’s exactly who you’ll be in 2026. If you see yourself as a leader, a builder of people and systems, your business will rise to that level.

December invites a brutally honest reflection:

- Who have you been this year?
- What standards did you accept?
- What beliefs limited you?
- What behaviours did you tolerate in yourself?
- What identity did you default back to when things got stressful?

These questions aren’t comfortable. They’re not meant to be. They’re meant to set you free.

Because if your Be doesn’t shift, nothing else will.

2. DO – Your actions are a reflection of your identity
“Do” is the visible part. Every result – profit, cashflow, team performance, time management – comes from the habits, systems, disciplines, and actions you take consistently.

But here’s what every business owner eventually realises: Knowing what to do is never the real problem. Doing it consistently is.

You already know you should:

- track KPIs
- review the 5 Ways every week
- improve pricing
- systemise the business
- delegate more
- lead the team better
- plan quarterly
- market consistently.

But until your Be shifts, you’ll never do these things reliably. This is why New Year resolutions fail. This is why businesses set goals and then slide back into chaos by March. This is why owners stay busy but not intentional.

Your Do is always pulled downward or upward by your Be.

3. HAVE - Your results are the multiplication of identity and action

Everything you have right now, good or bad, is the sum of your identity and your behaviour.

If you want to have:

- stronger profit
- better cashflow
- more time off
- a better Wellington lifestyle
- a stronger, more accountable team
- a business that can run without you
- or simply more peace...

then your Be x Do must change.

The next 24 months will not change because of a calendar tick. They will change because you do.

What does this mean for the end of 2026?

Imagine your life and business at the end of 2026. Go there – truly. Picture it.

What must you DO in 2025 to make that vision real by 2026? And even more important: Who must you BE to do those things?

Ask yourself: What do I want to HAVE by December 2026, what must I consistently DO to get there, and who must I BE to make those actions normal, natural, and non-negotiable?

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

YOUR BUSINESS



CHRIS WHELAN

Summer

AT THE TROTS

Family fun at the races

**KĀPITI COAST
HARNESS RACING CLUB
THURSDAY
15 JANUARY 2026**

**ŌTAKI RACECOURSE
GATES OPEN 2.30PM | FIRST RACE 3:30PM**



Celebrating the Clubs 90th Anniversary

Free Entry

Bring a picnic and enjoy an afternoon in the sun

Members Stand open to all

Punters Club



thetrots.co.nz

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

Waste warrior turns trash into treasure

Careoline Michael helps businesses, communities and councils to “take better care of the planet”.

And she’s succeeding – one step at a time.

Careoline, who lives in what she calls her beautiful environment at Ōtaki Beach, is director of Organic Wealth. She’s a nationally renowned expert in advising mostly businesses on how to make a positive difference with simple steps to increase recycling and reduce waste.

It begins with a waste audit, in which Careoline will assess what’s happening in a business. It’s a comprehensive audit that looks at every aspect of how a company is operating, with a report that suggests improvements that can significantly reduce waste – and save the business money.

She cites impressive figures that show a tertiary institution was able to divert 82% of its plastic waste to recycling; a supermarket diverted 100% of its glass waste to recycling; and a hotel, elderly care rest home, and kohanga reo were all able to reduce their organic waste to landfill by up to 97%.

Local companies Land Matters and Pritchard Civil recently commissioned Organic Wealth to do an audit. They were already well on the sustainability journey, having a recycling policy and solar panels that ensured it generated its own power needs in summer.

A variety of bins were located around their Ōtaki site in Addington Road, which collected waste, including:

- organic waste food scrap bins for composting
- general waste landfill bins
- glass recycling bins, and
- co-mingled recycling plastics, metal cans and cardboard bins.

What Careoline found was that nearly 3 tonnes (2799kg) of waste is generated every year, and more than two-thirds (1872kg) was going to the landfill.

Waste diverted from the landfill was about 32% of the total waste generated – the audit showed that 94% of the waste sent to the landfill had the potential to be diverted or reduced.

“It was a valuable exercise,” says Land Matters internal planner Bryony Hutcheson. “It shone a light on things we hadn’t recognised, like contamination in our recycling bins.



Some of the Organic Wealth team, from left, James Michael, Keone-Shelley-Lyons, Patricia Rameka and Careoline Michael. Photo supplied

“There was also some simple information we weren’t aware of before, such as the soft plastic recycling service at New World in Ōtaki. We now send our soft plastic there.

“Staff take this when they go to buy lunch, which I am hoping will create new habits for them with their home recycling, too.”

The audit was something the Land Matters and Pritchard Civil always wanted to do, but it was a no-brainer after they tapped into Kāpiti Coast District Council’s Waste Levy Grants scheme.

The grants support projects that minimise waste. They are funded by a portion of the national Waste Levy, and are available to community groups, schools, and businesses for a range of initiatives, including community projects, seed funding for new waste minimisation businesses, and support for existing businesses to reduce their waste.

They help fund practical on-the-ground

efforts, such as repair cafés, upcycling workshops, and waste audits, with a particular focus on reducing construction and demolition waste and organic waste.

Careoline says between 80 and 95% of what people throw out can be either diverted to recycling and composting, or eliminated entirely.

“Most of that is organic waste – food,” she says.

This is another arm of Organic Wealth’s operations – providing a food waste collection service for households, and businesses throughout the Wellington and Horowhenua region.


Organic Wealth’s waste team can often be seen at public events – often elbow deep in waste. They are a regular at the Ōtaki Kite Festival, working alongside 49th Squadron Air Force Cadets, sifting through the huge amount of waste. Careoline is encouraged by the results of her team’s work – during the past seven years they have helped event organisers collectively

divert more than 16 tonnes of waste from the landfill, redirecting it to renewable resources, and achieving up to 99% waste diversion.

■ For more information see organicwealth.nz

Kāpiti Coast District Council approved a new waste levy grants allocation policy in September. Funding for the 2026 rounds are significantly revised and increased. Business grants increase to a \$50,000 funding pool, with a minimum co-fund from only 25% instead of the old 50% requirement. The community grants pool increases also to \$50,000. Both are provisionally scheduled to open May-June 2026. An additional small community grants category is also being introduced, available year-round from mid-2026 for projects up to \$2000, with a total funding pool of \$20,000.

■ For more information see bit.ly/4/4pRfeXC


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HĪTŌRIA/History

The missionary and his timepiece

If there was a hierarchy among the four collection stores in Ōtaki Museum, then “the Vault” would stand supreme.

As was the case when the building was a bank, and the treasure was stored within its steel concrete encased walls, the single entrance guarded by its very heavy solid steel door, the treasures of our collection are securely lodged in the vault.

I was in there recently looking for something among the Ōtaki Borough Council records. Then I glimpsed just a few items sitting in a cardboard box on a shelf – among them what was described on a nearby label as a “travelling clock . . . possibly used by the Rev James McWilliam as he travelled around his large mission community”. An article for *Ōtaki Today* being due, I grasped this information as a drowning sailor would a lifeline.

James McWilliam was born on August 8, 1842, in Scotland. Ten years later he emigrated to New Zealand with his family. The family arrived in Wellington on March 1, 1852 – after a 92-day passage from England on board the *Agra*. They lived in Wadestown for a time, then moved to Matarawa Valley, near Whanganui. After some years spent helping on the family homestead, he left to serve as a missionary with the Church Missionary Society (CMS).

After receiving religious training, McWilliam was ordained as a deacon in 1867. He then moved to Ōtaki in 1868, studying under Octavius Hadfield. When Hadfield and his family moved to Wellington in January 1869, McWilliam took over as head of the Ōtaki Mission. This made him responsible for the Mission Station, Rangiatea Church and the Ōtaki Native School. He was ordained as a priest in 1871; which extended the range of religious duties he was able to undertake. In 1872, he held the first public religious service in Palmerston North.

McWilliam married Emily Canty (or Cantey, Cauty, Nevill) in 1873. She had been married



previously, and in November 1869, she petitioned the New Zealand Supreme Court for a divorce on the grounds of her husband’s adultery and bigamy. Her success made her the first woman to be granted a divorce under New Zealand domestic law.

During the court proceedings she said: “I left my husband because I had heard that he was committing adultery, and also because I disliked him very much, and I considered myself perfectly justified in leaving him . . . The reason why I disliked him so much was because he was nearly always drunk.”

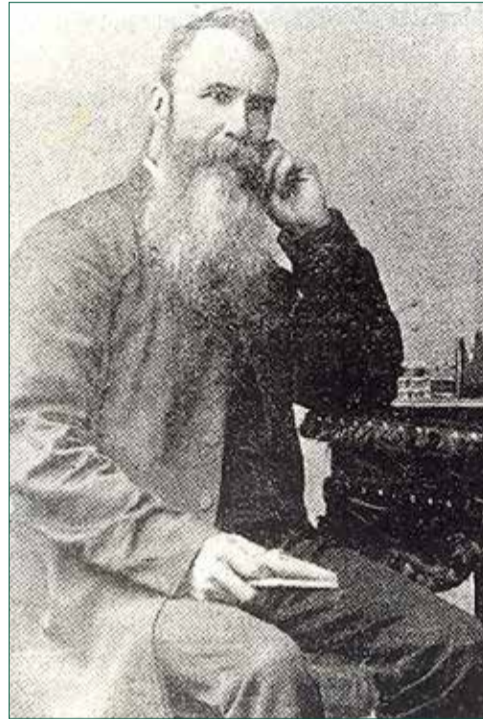
The *Wellington Independent* of November 11, 1869, reported of the case that, “the court could not wonder that she was disgusted with her short experience of matrimony”.

Emily McWilliam was active in the work of the Mission, and was noted for her community work as a nurse, practitioner of homeopathy and fundraiser for the Cottage Hospital.

James McWilliam was to remain in Ōtaki until 1906, when, on retirement, he moved to his sister’s house in Auckland. However, his retirement was to prove a short one. As *The Colonist* newspaper of February 5, 1907, reported: “The Rev James McWilliam, who was for 39 years Anglican missionary at Ōtaki, and was retired about a year ago, died at Auckland the other day.”

Before I write about the timepiece, I’d like to digress onto a time-related fact I discovered while researching for this article. In September 1868, a parliamentary resolution established a time for all of New Zealand. This was the first instance in the world of a government implementing a standard time nationwide.

The time selected was 11½ hours ahead of the time set at the Royal Observatory at Greenwich



At left, the Reverend James McWilliam in 1897, and below, the watch “possibly” used by him.

Images: Ōtaki Heritage



in England – that is Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

I was unable to find much information about the timepiece, other than that it was a pocket watch. Finally, in frustration I decided to seek help from my new friend, Chat. Most people would be familiar with the full name, Chat GTP – sometimes known as AI. I provided two photos I’d taken of the watch – one of it front-on in its case, the other of its workings. Enlargements were asked for “to help with identification”.

I provided these and, within a matter of seconds, Chat advised me that it was a Swiss gilt bar-movement pocket watch, from around 1885–1905, in its original silk-lined travel/presentation case. It was probably sold in Britain, New Zealand, or Australia.

The inside view, according to Chat, shows a classic bar movement (sometimes called a Lépine bar movement), which was common in good-quality Swiss watches of that period.

The long, fixed stem mounted below the watch inside the case suggests that it was designed to be wound while in its case, and possibly used like a desk or bedside clock when opened. Chat added that watch cases of this type were often sold with watches for travellers, military officers, and railway workers.

From an English perspective, the religious phrase “cleanliness is next to godliness”, meaning physical cleanliness proceeds from spiritual piety, was first used by John Wesley, the English preacher and co-founder of Methodism, who lived between 1703 and 1791. After some years in the Navy, I favour a secular variation of this which is, “timeliness is next to godliness”.

I think that the Reverend James McWilliam with his watch in his pocket personified this sentiment as it inevitably ensured that he always got to church on time for his priestly obligations.

■ David is chair of Ōtaki Heritage.



KĀPITI COAST HERITAGE

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WELLINGTON ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND | FREE EVENT

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PACKS TO BE WON!*

*Terms & Conditions Apply.

www.kapitiheritage.org.nz



ŌTAKI SCHOOL 1963



ŌTAKI SCHOOL 1971, ROOM 15: These 8-year-old+ students were born in the early 1960s. It was a large class of 39 students! Are you in this class? Send us names of those we don't know, or any corrections to: debby@idmedia.co.nz

Back row from left: Steven Shields, Lewellyn Bevan, unknown, Paul Matelidge, Patrick Te Oka, Graham Smith, Sean Connelly, Nehu Te Wiata, Terry Clark, unknown.
 Row 3: Brian Chung, Ian Ibbs, Grant Bird, Piwika Cook, John Connor, Errol McNaughton, Paul Thomson, Shane Young, Alex Walls, Mark Hing, and teacher Mr Hazelwood.
 Row 2: Mereana Royal, Robyn Hosie, Jackie Curry, Vivienne Swainson, Linda Winterburn, Daphne Goodyear, ? van Dyke, Debbie Young, Maryanne Wilson.
 Front row: Robyn Young, Ruth Grace, Rosalie Hakaraia, Kaye Taucher, Andrea Brunnell, Hinerangi Edwards, Stephanie Davis, Janine Searanke, Donna Fraser, Karina Tansy.



Ōtaki River entrance tides December 10- January 11

<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 10 DEC	02:35	08:37	14:59	21:17	-
THU 11 DEC	03:28	09:30	15:55	22:12	-
FRI 12 DEC	04:24	10:27	16:53	23:08	-
SAT 13 DEC	05:22	11:29	17:52	-	-
SUN 14 DEC	-	00:06	06:23	12:34	18:49
MON 15 DEC	-	01:04	07:24	13:34	19:43
TUE 16 DEC	-	01:58	08:19	14:28	20:33
WED 17 DEC	-	02:48	09:07	15:15	21:19
THU 18 DEC	-	03:33	09:49	15:57	22:02
FRI 19 DEC	-	04:14	10:29	16:36	22:42
SAT 20 DEC	-	04:53	11:05	17:14	23:21
SUN 21 DEC	-	05:30	11:41	17:51	23:59
MON 22 DEC	-	06:06	12:16	18:28	-
TUE 23 DEC	00:37	06:42	12:52	19:07	-
WED 24 DEC	01:15	07:19	13:30	19:47	-
THU 25 DEC	01:55	07:58	14:11	20:29	-
FRI 26 DEC	02:38	08:41	14:56	21:16	-
SAT 27 DEC	03:25	09:30	15:47	22:07	-
SUN 28 DEC	04:19	10:26	16:44	23:03	-
MON 29 DEC	05:20	11:30	17:45	-	-
TUE 30 DEC	-	00:06	06:27	12:40	18:50
WED 31 DEC	-	01:12	07:37	13:49	19:56
THU 1 JAN	-	02:19	08:43	-	-

Further January dates were unavailable at the time of going to print.



MĀORI COLLEGE AND BOARDING HOSTEL: Constructed in 1909, the above hostel and school building has been part of more than 150 years of Māori education. It was built by the Ōtaki and Porirua Trusts Board, from an educational endowment set up in 1848 by local Māori who gifted the land, in partnership with Governor Sir George Grey and Anglican Bishop George Selwyn. In 1852-53 a Māori college and boarding hostel was set up by the Church Missionary Society on this site, in association with the Anglican Māori church, Rangiatea. Although the hostel was closed in 1868 the school continued as a day school. In 1903 the original hostel and school were burned down. In 1907 the administration of the endowment was taken from the Church Missionary Society and given to the newly formed Ōtaki and Porirua Trusts Board. The Ōtaki and Porirua Empowering Act 1907 enabled the trust to build a new hostel and classrooms. The plans for the new facilities were drawn up by architect Ernest Coleridge and the buildings were built by James Craig. The building was described as having accommodation for 100 students, with two large classrooms and an assembly hall. The school operated for a further 30 years before it was closed in 1939. It is now part of Te Wānanga o Raukawa.

GOT OLD PHOTOS?
 If you have old school photos – or any photos of old Ōtaki – please get in touch. We're building our archive so we can keep publishing snapshots of life when the town and district were younger. Email us, including names and other information if you can. Contact debby@idmedia.co.nz with additions or corrections to captions.

FROM NGĀ TAONGA SOUND & VISION ARCHIVES

Collection explores te reo Māori dialects

Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision, in partnership with Tātai Aho Rau Core Education, are pleased to introduce *He Reo Rongomaiwhiti – Our Ancestors' Voices*, a new curated collection of audiovisual taonga showcasing the rich diversity of te reo Māori dialects throughout Aotearoa.

The collection has been designed as an educational resource, drawing on historic audiovisual archival material from the Taonga Māori Collection, which Ngā Taonga cares for. The selection of audio and video presented illustrate the varying dialects and how they differ from region to region.

He Reo Rongomaiwhiti – Our Ancestors' Voices can be found on the Ngā Taonga website in both te reo Māori and English. Visit www.ngataonga.org.nz.



Children learning te reo Māori at the summer programme 1983. Tapuaka – Heritage & Archive Collections, ref: VUVCPO293.



TAMARIKI FUN

Plenty of strawberries this year

This summer there will be more strawberries available just in time for Christmas. Recent years have been hard, with storms and Cyclone Gabrielle destroying many plants – some growers received only half the number of plants they needed. It has taken growers two years to recover because strawberry plants must be carefully grown from small cuttings. Ed Hobson of Hauora Produce in Canterbury says he's excited about the harvest. His farm is one of 160 throughout the country, with eight of them growing half of all strawberry plants. Andrew Boylan of Tharfield Nursery says it was once hard to think there wouldn't be enough fruit for shops. But now things are looking much better. With flowers and fruit already appearing on the plants, prices should be lower, and supply more steady. Ed Hobson encourages everyone to enjoy the season while it lasts. "Just keep eating strawberries," he says.



Meri Kirihimete everyone



Long hot summer

holiday fun



WORD MAKER

FRUITS

DO YOU LOVE SUMMER FRUIT? Mmm strawberries, raspberries and blueberries. Can you make 41 words from FRUITS? Answers below.



"As lovely as it would be to pack up and head off for an adventure somewhere new and exciting, for many families, and for many different reasons, school holidays often feature a fair bit of home time," says Holly Jean Brooker, educator, writer, child safety advocate, PR specialist and mum of two. With a background in high school education where she specialised in health and social sciences, Holly has some great ideas for all-age children to make it through the long hot summer holidays (see below). Holly is also co-founder of Makesense.org.nz. You can see all of her ideas at: parentingplace.nz

Volcano erupts first time in 10,000 years

Hayli Gubbi, a volcano in northern Ethiopia, erupted on November 23. It is believed to be the first time in 10,000 years. The powerful eruption sent thick clouds of ash and smoke high into the sky, surprising scientists and locals alike. Nearby villages were covered in ash, which settled on farms and grazing areas. This has made life difficult for farmers and herders, although no injuries or deaths have been reported. The ash cloud was so large it was seen from space. It drifted across the Red Sea and reached faraway countries including Yemen, Oman, Pakistan and India. Some flights in India were delayed or cancelled as airlines checked if planes had flown through ash-covered airspace. Scientists believe the volcano had been dormant for thousands of years, but erupted when changes occurred deep underground, showing that even very old volcanoes can become active again.



Remember your sunblock and hat

Hare Pota me te Pakohu Huna

Hare Pota me te Pakohu Kura Huna (Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets) has been launched at the Toitū te Reo Māori Festival in Hastings. It follows the first book, Hare Pota me te Whatu Manapou, released five years ago. The translation is part of the Kotahi Rau Pukapuka project, which aims to publish 100 books in te reo Māori. Pania Papa, who leads the trust, says reading books is a great way to learn the language because it shows how different words work in different situations. This time, six translators helped bring the story into te reo Māori. The two-day festival also looked at how to protect and grow the Māori language. Dame Hinewehi Mohi spoke about the success of Waiata Anthems, which gets NZ artists to sing in te reo. She said music and kapa haka make language learning more exciting for young people.



For the little ones

WATER PLAY: Set up outside with buckets, bowls, funnels and cups. Include some bubbles and food colouring. If the weather is grim, give them a sink full of warm, soapy water. Note: stay close – water play requires adult supervision.

PLAYING SHOPS: Set up shop using cardboard boxes, empty packages, containers. Add some coins and notes (they can make their own) and kids will play for hours. Add a little café (cardboard boxes make good tables and upside-down toy boxes can be stools), then serve them morning tea there.

OBSTACLE COURSES: Create a series of challenges in the backyard, or inside if the weather isn't great. Use boxes, yoga rollers, cushions and shoes to create a course. Challenge them to do five laps with a timer on.



FAIRY GARDENS: Paint some rocks and pick flowers to create a fairy garden. Make tiny furniture from whatever you can find. Cotton reels, ice block sticks, buttons, bottle tops.

The kids in the middle CAMPING: Sleep in your lounge under a tent, or build a fort – you're never too old for the classic blanket hut, fairy lights, food, spooky stories or a movie night inside it.

PIZZA PARTY: Kids can have a go at making their own dough from scratch and decorating their own pizzas with various toppings.

Bonus – dinner is sorted!

Tweens and teens OLD-SCHOOL PHOTOS: Challenge your teen to create a family photo album (or one with their friends) using an online photo publishing website. These books are a neat keepsake and the creation process is fun and inspiring, plus a great chance to practise some design skills. This option – happymoose.nz/products/photo-cards – can create a collage for the bedroom wall.

MASTERCHEF: Challenge each family member to create their own menu including shopping for it, too. Set a budget, the judging requirements, and slot those dates in the calendar to look forward to.

QUIZ NIGHT: Ask another family over for Trivial Pursuit, or make up your own quiz – they can take AGES to put together, so a good way to while away a rainy afternoon.

CADE'S END OF SCHOOL (for some kids!) WORD SEARCH

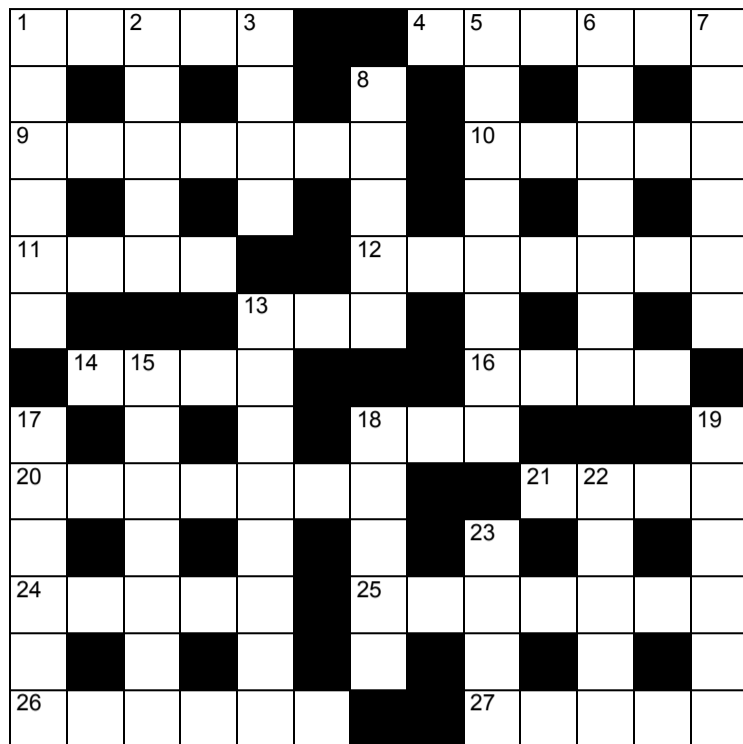
can you find these words?

break play goodbye school holidays Xmas

q z c x o u b w o m s p d p e
z f j z b x o s j b p p c s z
u d r f d t n y s b s v r e w
e a r j s p l y j v c e b h y
f y c a d i a l l j b u r f p
d w b e k d f b o k n q c a z
k a o d i r z u o s h r n q k
y b q l o o h i h r e v w y l
i p o a w o e m c k v r q w p
h h d r v c g w s i b b h b b
k w g d y i v a q e e r h b h
p b p r q q b j p t k e v v e
n c v k s x m a s l n a t m o
l t j x n r c d g v a k a z c
b n i t z r d x l q r y g y g

FRUITS: WORD MAKER ANSWERS from above. 5-letter words: 1. first 2. frits 3. fruit 4. rifts 5. turfs. 4-letter words: 6. firs 7. fist 8. fits 9. frit 10. furs 11. rifs 12. rift 13. sift 14. surf 15. turf 16. rust 17. ruts 18. stir 19. suit 20. tuis. 3-letter words: 21. fir 22. fit 23. fur 24. ifs 25. rif 26. its 27. rut 28. sir 29. sit 30. sri 31. tis 32. tui 33. uts. 2-letter words: 34. if 35. is 36. it 37. si 38. 39. ti 40. us 41. ut.

THE CROSSWORD #NZ1954E (answers below)



ACROSS

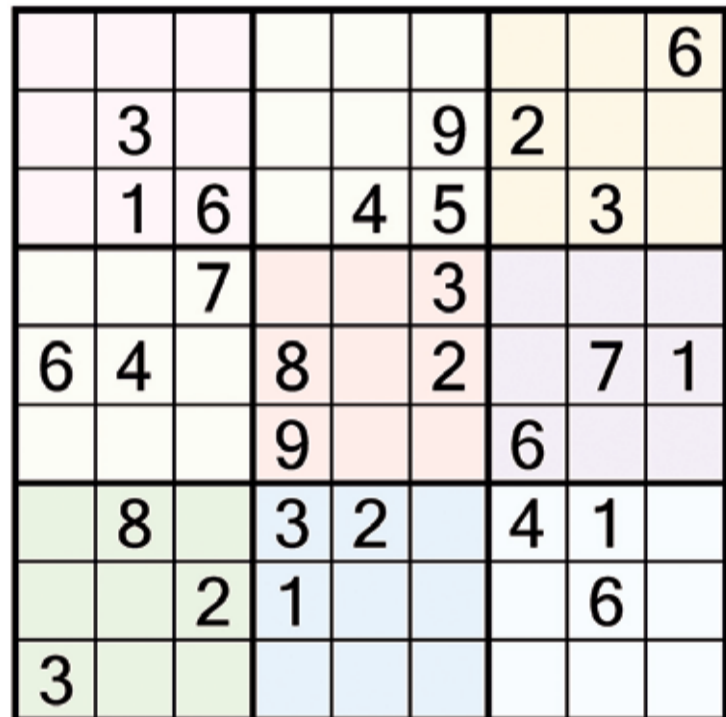
- 1 Slightly sticky (5)
- 4 Set to (6)
- 9 Creature on former 5c coin (7)
- 10 Deduce (5)
- 11 Impetuous (4)
- 12 Outside NZ, it's a drop scone (7)
- 13 Annual illness (3)
- 14 Resound (4)
- 16 Christchurch suburb, home to the University of Canterbury (4)
- 18 An amusing type (colloq) (3)
- 20 Electric transport popular in NZ cities (7)
- 21 Badly behaved child (inf) (4)
- 24 Theatre attendant (5)
- 25 Useless person (colloq) (2,5)
- 26 Snare (6)
- 27 Golfer's assistant (5)

DOWN

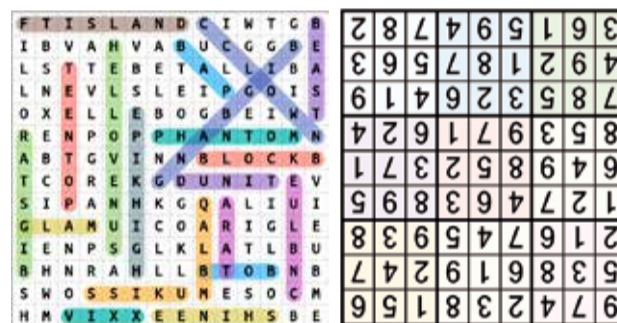
- 1 Native tree that was used for fence posts and railway sleepers (6)
- 2 School group (5)
- 3 A school's annual intake (4)
- 5 Popular term for Muldoon era economic strategy (5,3)
- 6 Sprouting pea (7)
- 7 Martial art (6)
- 8 Northland town that has held a Highland games at New Year for 150 years (5)
- 13 One of NZ's largest companies (8)
- 15 Handcraft (7)
- 17 Shrewd (6)
- 18 Flying device (5)
- 19 One level of a building (6)
- 22 Fast-moving section of a river (5)
- 23 Stylish (4)

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EASY #97E 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.



WORD SEARCH K-POP ANSWERS SUDOKU SOLUTION #97E



TEST YOUR GRAMMAR QUIZ How well do you know your grammar? Answers below left..

1. The first letter of the first word in a sentence should be: a. a large letter b. a capital letter.
2. The order of a basic positive sentence is: a. Subject-Verb-Object b. Verb-Object-Subject.
3. Every sentence must have a subject and: a. a verb b. an object.
4. A plural subject needs: a. a singular verb b. a plural verb.
5. When two singular subjects are connected by "or", use: a. a singular verb b. a plural verb.
6. Adjectives usually come: a. before a noun b. after a noun.
7. If an opinion-adjective and a fact-adjective are used before a noun, which comes first? a. a fact-adjective b. an opinion-adjective.
8. In American English, a collective noun is more often treated as: a. singular, or b. plural.
9. The terms "its" and "it's" have: a. the same meaning b. different meanings.
10. Which is correct? a. You're looking good, or b. Your looking good.

WORD SEARCH: K-POP educate yourself!
answers page 19

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

HELLO VENUS CNBLUE TEEN TOP D UNIT BTOP C-CLOWN **PHANTOM GLAM U-KISS FT ISLAND EPIK HIGH BIG STAR T-ARA** **BLOCK B BEAST BAP BIG BANG VIXX SHINEE**

CROSSWORD #1954E ANSWERS Across: 1. Tacky, 4. Attack, 9. Tuatara, 10. Infer, 11. Rash, 12. Pikelet, 13. Flu, 14. Echo, 16. Iam, 18. Dag, 20. Scooter, 21. Brat, 24. Usher, 25. No hope, 26. Entrap, 27. Caddy. **DOWN:** 1. Tōtara, 2. Class, 3. Year, 5. Think Big, 6. Alfalfa, 7. Karate, 8. Waipū, 13. Fonterra, 15. Crochet, 17. Astute, 18. Drone, 19. Storey, 22. Rapid, 23. Chic.

TEST YOUR GRAMMAR QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. a. capital letter, 2. a. Subject-Verb-Object, 3. a. a verb, 4. b. a plural verb, 5. a. a singular verb, 6. a. before a noun, 7. b. an opinion-adjective, 8. a. singular, 9. b. different meanings, 10. a. You're looking good.

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We extend our heartfelt thanks and aroha to everyone who supported our recent gala. Your generous contributions, time and presence made the event a great success despite the weather.

To our sponsors, donors, volunteers, attendees and behind the scenes helpers, - we couldn't have done it without you all. Your kindness and community spirit are truly appreciated.

Arohanui
Ngati Wehiwhi Marae komiti.

DEATH NOTICE

HALL, AGNES (ANN) NEE CAULFIELD

Passed away peacefully on Thursday 30th October in Levin. Ann was a loved and loving wife of Jim Hall (dec). A much loved and loving mother, mother-in-law and Grannie to John (dec), Tracey, Neve, Eliza Mason (Tasmania), and James Mason (Switzerland). Step mum to Robyn, Jamie, Craig and Tony Hall. A loved and loving Aunt of all her nieces and nephews. Ann lived happily in Ōtaki Beach for many years until health reason bought a shift to Levin. The family would like to sincerely thank the many people who helped and have been friends to Ann over the years. Especially Jeanine and her family from Riverstone Cafe in Ōtaki, and Margaret, Driving Miss Daisy Levin. All the staff and Ccareers at Reevedon Home, Levin and latterly at War Veterans Hospital, Levin. A private cremation has been held in accordance with Ann's wishes. Her ashes will be laid to rest in Invercargill alongside her parents.

DEATH NOTICE

SHARON ANNE BYTHELL AKA SAH SIMON Born 27.9.67, sadly passed away at Waikato Hospital 7.9.25 due to health issues. Loved daughter of Dianne and Brent, sister of Kim, former wife of Ray, mother of Fern, Hazel and Holly. Nanny Sah to her 10 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Girl Guide, Venturer Scout, Radio Broadcaster, talented singer and actress, and a hardcase with a wicked sense of humour. We miss her.

DEATH NOTICES
remember your loved one

e: debbi@idmedia.co.nz or txt 027 285 4720
for details and rate

TAKĀRO/Sport



Above, Waitohu School's A grade team, from left, Scarlett Beauchamp, Jacob Easton, Sidney Growcott, and Darcy Lethbridge, and middle, the school's B grade team, from left, Alex Saunders, Bronzon Richards, Lincoln Graham, and Hunter Lethbridge. Above right, Ōtaki Sports Club's A Grade mixed doubles team (caption in story below). Photos supplied

From left, Wes Munn, Joe Ashby and Charles Parry, who are part of the newly formed Ōhau Football Club. Photo Paul Williams

Waitohu interschool tennis champs

Waitohu School was this month crowned champion school in what is believed to be the first-ever Ōtaki inter-schools tennis event.

Hosted by Ōtaki Sports Club and played at courts around Ōtaki and Te Horo, five schools competed for the title in an all-day event for year 5-8s.

Tournament director Adam Shelton said the eight teams and large number of players in the competition showed the good health of junior tennis in Ōtaki. He hoped more schools would enter the event when it was held again in term 4, 2026.

Adam said a large group of parent volunteers looked after the players, the matches and the venues throughout the day.

"The tennis community in Ōtaki is

thriving, and is built on a strong inter-generational base that helps us run events such as this, and that provides a strong platform to continue the growth of the sport competitively and socially for children and adults."

Adam said planning had already begun to run the schools event again next year, as part of Ōtaki Sports Club plans to continue the development of tennis that this year saw it take home the Tennis Capital Coast club of the year award.

Results: Champion School: Waitohu. A grade: 1st Ōtaki College, 2nd Waitohu School, 3rd Te Horo School, Te Kura-a-iwi o Whakatapuranga Rua Mano.

B grade: 1st Waitohu School, 2nd Manakau School, 3rd Te Horo School, 4th Ōtaki College.

Meantime, Ōtaki Sports Club's A Grade mixed doubles tennis team continued their remarkable winning streak by winning the pre-Christmas Wellington competition on November 29. They were undefeated through the seven-round event.

The victory is the fifth from the past seven competitions – a winning run that stretches back to November 2022.

Pictured above are, from left, Craig Eves, Jackie Gould, Leonie Campbell and Adam Shelton, who beat Stokes Valley 6-2 in the final round to take the title. The squad also includes Hannah Grimmett, Jodie Lawson and Allen Hokai. Tama Te Whata, Jonah Pritchard and Christopher Dean provided winning fill-in appearances to help the squad get through the competition.

New Ōhau club

By Paul Williams

Ōtaki Sports Club is to get a new rival – Ōhau Football Club has been established and will play in the Wellington leagues.

The club's base is in a vacant pavilion at Ōhau Domain, with their home turf an under-utilised sports field adjacent to State Highway 1 south of Levin.

OFC president Wes Munn says he often thought the ground had potential as a football venue, but the idea sat parked until he mentioned it at a get-together with a group of friends.

"It really was a humble pub idea that just snowballed," he says.

Now the club is fizzing at the prospect of having both a men's and women's team taking the field next season, and a junior team in the future.

Training will begin in the new year with a series of pre-season games planned for February. Wes says the club is inclusive and would warmly welcome anyone wanting to join either team.

"We could probably scratch a team together [now] but we will definitely need more players for sure," he says.

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