

# ŌTAKI TODAY

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ŌTAKI TODAY • HĀNUERE JANUARY 2021

Ngā Kōrero o Ōtaki

## The house that Bruce built

By Ian Carson

**It's a tiny house, but it will do the job when Bruce Tasker and Olwyn Wright have to move at the end of January.**

The couple who are flatmates in Winiata Place are renting, but the owner is returning to live in their home. With roaring rental prices and a booming house market, there was no way the pair could rent again in Ōtaki, or buy their own house.

Hence the idea for a tiny house.

The resourceful Bruce has done plenty of building work in his time, along with work as a security guard and as a truck driver. They came to Ōtaki from Wainuiomata 25 years ago, but never got the opportunity to own their own home.

Now Bruce – with Olwyn's assistance – is building one. Sure it's small, but it will be theirs, and all the more satisfying because it's their ingenuity and sweat that has created it.

The build on the Winiata Place driveway began in October after a basic double-axle trailer was acquired. That was the platform on which the house is being constructed. Bruce has bolted the foundations down, and even fashioned his own jacking device to keep the trailer level as construction progresses.

Almost all of the material is second-hand – either gifted by friends who've wanted to help, or picked up by the couple as they keep an eye out around town. A window here, some timber there. Other material has been bought, but it's been limited by a tight budget.

Even some of Bruce's nails are from recycled timber.

"See, they straighten out OK," Bruce says as he hammers out another kink in a nail with his builder's expertise.

Bruce says the tiny house is being built to all building and safety requirements. As a transportable home, it can be moved anywhere and doesn't need building consent.

The house is being built with a single-level entrance leading into a 4.8m by 2m lower floor for the kitchen, living area and storage. A high-roof mezzanine at the back will provide a 3m by 2m sleeping area.

It's a clever design, and functional for their purposes.

Shower and toilet facilities are features the pair is working on. Not liking the "campervan-style" chemical toilets, they're looking to get a compostable toilet. A shower could be added, depending on the site the house will eventually be located. A campground with these facilities might be an option.

Out of work and closing in on the pension age, Bruce and Olwyn know their chances of having their own conventional home are limited. However, it's not stopped them from thinking outside the square.

The enthusiasm for their project is evident in the amount of work being done with every hour available. That's even though Bruce has some physical difficulties after breaking more bones than he cares to remember.

They're looking forward to the future.

"It's going to be an adventure," Olwyn says.

■ If you know of a spot for the tiny home, call Bruce or Olwyn on 027 394-3082 or drop in at Winiata Place.



THINKING SMALL: Bruce Tasker and Olwyn Wright with the tiny house Bruce is building with Olwyn's assistance in Winiata Place. Photo Ian Carson

## Funding to support at-risk youth

A two-year pilot programme with a strong focus on Ōtaki rangatahi aged 15-24 has received \$995,000 from He Poutama Rangatahi, a fund managed by the Provincial Development Unit. The funding is aimed at supporting youth who are most at risk of long-term unemployment and not in education, employment or training, including those transitioning from school who need extra support. The programme will be based in Ōtaki and launched in February, led by the Kāpiti Coast District Council in partnership with Work Ready Kāpiti, Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki and Ministry of Social Development.

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# Bolger thinking revived in four-year term debate

**A**gainst the background of Labour's overwhelming majority in Parliament and the dominance in media of calls for more financial resourcing to be directed to social change, the make-up of the ruling party's new MPs provides a glimpse of societal change.

Their ranks are predominantly filled by personalities with a background in trade union, community group and environmental activities. Women are predominant, making up 18 of the 22 new Labour parliamentarians.

It points to calls from single-issue groups involved in the health, housing and social servicing areas obtaining a positive hearing in Parliament and heightened pressure inside the Labour Caucus on Finance Minister Grant Robertson when setting his 2021 Budget.

Traditionally when a Caucus has a majority such as this Ardern Government, one of the most difficult tasks for its leadership is maintaining unity of approach to financial management. This can become especially vexing when new members are accustomed to advocacy with little restraint on either hyperbole or action that can be portrayed as advancing their special cause.

Parliamentary politics, including party caucuses, often demands compromise. And such compromises frequently concern the amount of money the purse-holder feels are either the most

that can be devoted to an issue or an acceptance of rejection because called-for funds are simply not available.

Odds are that any tensions that might arise in the new government will spring from these tensions. The manner in which they are handled will tell much about the quality of management Labour's leadership brings to its stewardship of the country's affairs.

Likely to be on its agenda is the yearning of parliamentarians in Labour and National to introduce a four-year term of office for governments. While the claim that four-year terms would provide for better administration and get the nation away from the political cycle of: first year prepare the politically difficult issues for resolution; second year implement them; and third year prepare for the fight at the polls to hold on to the Treasury benches – the claim, in my view, places too much emphasis on a mythical utopia.

The three-year term has not prevented past governments from stern unpopular actions when judged necessary. The first term of the Lange Government, which introduced harsh measures to correct an ailing economy, is the stand-out example. It won re-election.

**POLITICS**



**BRUCE KOHN**

Sir Robert Muldoon had a definitive answer to the question of a three or four-year term. In the closing months of his last term in office he told a hostile meeting of economists, upset at his economic policies, that while he thought they mostly supported a four-year term he did not agree with the proposition. Why?

"Because under New Zealand's single chamber parliamentary

system I could go back to the House from here and with support from most of my caucus change the law to have every man in the country termed a woman. But if you didn't like it at least you know that every three years you can throw me out."

The implication that a country with just a single governance chamber should for the safety of democracy have its political leadership on notice over three and not four years was not lost on its audience. Hostility drained out of the meeting. The unpopularity of his economic policies resulted in a heavy defeat at the polls a short time later.

A subsequent prime minister, Jim Bolger, had a view when MMP was introduced that the country should have a second chamber to offer oversight over the all-powerful government of a single chamber. His thoughts were rejected in debate before MMP's introduction.

Should, however, the move to a four-year parliamentary term gain traction under the Ardern administration, this Bolger thinking might well gain adherents. It could be looked at from a perspective that the diversity sought under MMP might best be catered for by returning the parliamentary election to a first-past-the-post system of voting and making the second chamber a repository for the many diverse groups and ethnicities that comprise New Zealand today.

Under a four-year term the administrative gains that proponents of it look for could be addressed. But the ideal of diverse groups of society being positioned through a second chamber to act as guardians of democracy over an all-supreme cabinet executive could have a positive impact.

The quality of decision making might well be enhanced and the potential for overbearing regulatory and legislative actions by an administration unduly comfortable in the security of tenure offered by four years in office would become subject to close and open scrutiny.

There is no lack of constitutional experts in the country able to devise a system providing the necessary checks on executive power but offering an acceptable means of curbing excessive delay to implementation of the government's agenda.

■ Bruce has been an economics and business editor, political and foreign correspondent in Washington, London and Hong Kong. He recently retired as CEO of the Building Industry Federation.

## LOCAL EVENTS

**FESTIVAL OF POTS AND GARDEN ART** Anam Cara, 150 Rangiu Road, Ōtaki. January 22-27. A fabulous family friendly event set in stunning gardens with an amazing array of pottery, ceramics and garden art for sale. Yummy on-site cafe, free parking, a great day out! \$5 entry for adults, kids free.

**PUREBREAD ŌTAKI SUMMER MUSIC CARNIVAL** Memorial Park, Main St, 10.30am-4.30pm Saturday January 23. A free outdoor concert in the middle of town. See page 15.

**ŌTAKI TODAY BUSINESS NETWORKING** First meeting of the year is "Speed Dating for Businesses", Rotary Lounge at 5.30pm (turn up from 5pm), Friday, February 12. Sponsored by First National Ōtaki. Also hear property expert Ashley Church at a First National Ōtaki meeting at the Rotary Lounge on Wednesday, February 24. See page 18 for details.

**ŌTAKI KITE FESTIVAL** February 6-7. A fabulous free weekend of kites, family fun, market stalls and entertainment at Ōtaki Beach. See page 11-13.

**LOLL IN THE LAVENDER PICNIC**, 2-7pm Sunday, February 7, at Lavender Creek Farm, Te Horo, to raise funds for the Mirek Smíšek Arts Centre. Bring a picnic and a blanket and enjoy blues and jazz. See page 21.

**HE RANGI MOKOPUNA CELEBRATING CHILDREN'S DAY** Sunday, March 7, noon-7pm at Haruātai Park, Mill Rd, Ōtaki. A free fun day out organised by KCDC for the whole whānau. Enjoy the Ōtaki pools, waterslide and lots of sport and play activities for free. There'll be chill-out areas for reading books with council librarians, and local musicians at the Zeal stage. Bring a picnic or select from a range of food to buy. Play activities finish at 4:30pm with a family movie showing on a big outdoor screen.

**ŌTAKI MUSEUM** Main Street, Ōtaki. Current exhibition The Changing Face of Main St. Open Thursday-Saturday 10am-2pm, excluding public holidays. otakimuseum.co.nz

**ŌTAKI YARD MARKET** Every Saturday 8am-2pm, SH1 shops. Growers, crafters, bakers, makers and more. To book a stall: otakiyard.nz

**ŌTAKI WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB CRAFT MARKET** SH1, opposite New World, open 9am-2pm every Sunday in summer. Contact Georgie 027 234 1090.

**MAHARA GALLERY**, Mahara Place, Waikanae. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm. All welcome. FREE entry.

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

**SEASONAL SURPLUS STALL** In front of Memorial Hall, Main St. Thursdays, buying from 10.30am, selling from 11am. Bring surplus fruit, veges and eggs. Contact 364-7762.

**TE HORO COUNTRY MARKET** Te Horo Community Hall, School Road. First Sunday of the month: 10am-1pm.

To list your community event, contact debbi@idmedia.co.nz or 06 364-6543.

## CARTOON OF THE MONTH

By Jared Carson



## ŌTAKI TODAY

Ōtaki Today is published monthly by ID Media Ltd, 13 Te Manuao Rd, Ōtaki.

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS #5463

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SUDOKU ANSWERS EASY #13

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# Toi Tangata boosts town art scene

**A new multi-media art centre taking shape in the old United Video store is adding to the vibrant art scene in the Ōtaki township.**

Toi Tangata Studio and Art Gallery is the brainchild of Jerome Kavanagh and Taryn Beri. The couple have spent the Christmas break painting walls – including helping with a vibrant outdoor mural by Theo Arraj on the Matene Street side of their Main Street gallery – hanging their extensive collection of mostly Māori artwork, and planning their workshops and official opening day on March 6. However, the gallery is open now to anyone who wants to browse or buy.

While the gallery space is new, the multi-talented couple are far from novices. They have successfully sold artwork through Toi Tangata online and for four years took their artistic and organisational skills overseas. In places such as London, New York, Amsterdam and Bali they have worked with local artists to run pop-up exhibitions.

“We specialise in collaborating with local artists to create something unique to that time and space, merging our Māori culture with whatever is happening with the indigenous culture there,” Taryn says.

While Jerome and Taryn have clearly immersed themselves in Māori art – and it was their original focus – they have developed Toi Tangata to be inclusive of everyone.

“Toi Tangata means ‘creative people’, and that means all creative people. It’s for everyone,” Taryn says. “It also embraces all art forms.”

Taryn is a painter, but works predominantly as a tā moko (tattoo) artist. Jerome has an international reputation as one of only a few exponents of taonga pūoro (traditional Māori instruments). He started with the ancient koauau, a wooden flute, and learned

to play other traditional instruments largely by himself, influenced by his love of the Ruahine Ranges near where he grew up.

The breadth of the couple’s talent has inspired them to create not just a gallery, but also a space for all forms of art – performance, dance, music, poetry, the written word, video art, new media etc.

“When you get a fusion of art forms, that’s when the magic happens,” Taryn says.

It’s important to them that Toi Tangata is a place of therapy and healing, allowing the wairua (spirit) to flourish for themselves “and anyone who comes here”.

Though having grown up elsewhere, both Taryn and Jerome whakapapa to Ngāti Raukawa and wouldn’t have their gallery anywhere else. They love the community feel of the town, and the ability to easily bike wherever they need to go.

“I see us being part of a community that’s going back to what Aotearoa used to be like, because we’ve all come so far from that,” Jerome says.

Being part of what they see as a destination town for Māori art already – with galleries at Māoriland and Hori as well as a plethora of talented artists – excites them. They certainly don’t feel any competition with others.

“Working in collaboration and complementing what other people are doing is important,” Taryn says. “We’re mindful of their exhibition dates and other events. We’re all part of the same community.”

Meantime, one-day workshops are planned for February 20 and March 20. They will include experiential painting and colour therapy, prayer (karakia or poetry), and music.

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



ARTISTS: Taryn Beri and Jerome Kavanagh with the Theo Arraj mural at their Toi Tangata Studio & Art Gallery on the corner of Main and Matene streets. Photo Ian Carson

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# Organics ‘common sense’ recognised



By Michael Moore

**Marion Wood and James (Jim) Kebell have been honoured for services to sustainable business and the community in the New Year Honours. They become members of the New Zealand Order of Merit.**

Their five certified organic stores in Wellington and Auckland, supported by 11.2 hectares of fertile land in Te Horo, where much of their food supply is grown, has garnered respect and accolades throughout New Zealand.

“It’s just common sense,” Marion says. “Our food is organically grown and this promotes good health, and long-term care of our environment. These values of environmental sustainability, preserve our resources for future generations.”

Marion was with the YWCA and Jim, a former Catholic priest, was running a halfway house helping young, marginalised people and those below the poverty line. Their background in social justice has guided their business model.

In 1975 the couple bought land in Te Horo, calling it Common Property, to grow vegetables and connect people with the land. Understanding the impact chemicals had on the soil and food supply chain convinced them this was the future.

Commonsense Organics, which employs 80 staff, can’t keep up with demand.

“In the early years, we were producing so well – more vegetables than the collective of families could eat – and then we ran out of places to sell [to organic

co-ops],” Jim says. “We realised we had to start our own shops.”

Their five stores have about 5000 products in their range, including dairy, frozen goods and groceries, showing the demand for local organic produce is high.

“New Zealand needs a lot more organic growers, not only for our domestic market. There’s also a huge organic export market,” Marion says. “When fertilisers and pesticides came onto the market, there was a hiatus of mechanical ways of dealing with weeds, and now because we’re moving away from these poisons and back to traditional ways of growing, there’s an increasing number of good mechanical options. The pendulum is swinging back again, with technology improving all the time.”

During the Covid lockdown, Commonsense shops were open. “We were classed as an essential service,” Marion says. “During that time, sales of our seedlings in Kāpiti doubled as many started growing at home.”

Jim and Marion’s vision stipulates that at least 10 percent of their profits goes to initiatives that support their values. For example, garden schemes are run in several decile 1 schools.

As they step back a little from the day-to-day running of the business, and look back over their 45 years since the first seed was sown at Te Horo, they are proud of the legacy they have created.

“We have had the most wonderful life, we have been so incredibly lucky,” Marion says.

## QSM for tireless kuia

**The celebration of Isobel Ransfield’s Queen’s Service Medal for services to Māori was short-lived – she died aged 92 only three days after the announcement in the New Year Honours.**

Isobel had been a kuia for about 30 years at marae in the Ōtaki region – in particular Ngāti Wehiwehi Marae in Manakau – quietly sharing and passing on her knowledge and understanding of tikanga (customs) passed onto her from kuia (Aunty Maude Miratana and Nanny Bell Gardiner) to the younger generations of Māori.

Her tireless work was recognised over many decades for its value throughout the region – and now officially beyond with the honour of a QSM.

Isobel was originally from Murupara and Ngāti Manawa in the Bay of Plenty, and was the fifth child of a large family.

On leaving Hukarere Girls’ College, she applied for and was successfully appointed to a

NZOMs: Jim Kebell and Marion Wood at their Te Horo property.

Photo Michael Moore

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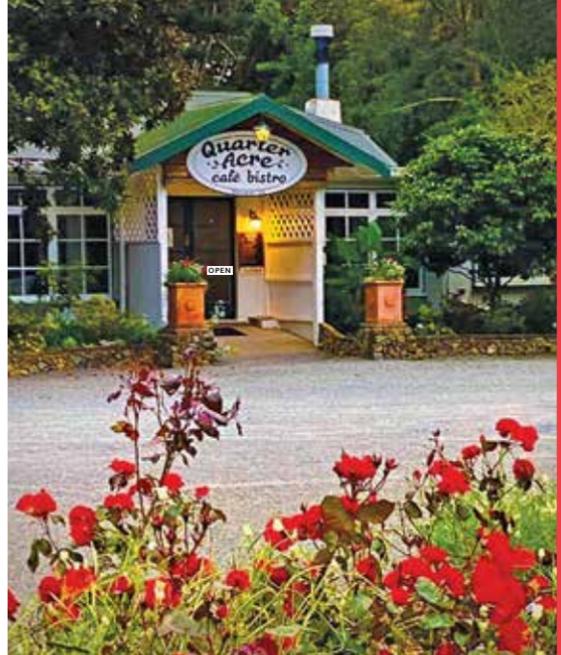
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**QSM: Isobel Ransfield on her 90th birthday.**

*Photo supplied*

clerical position at the New Zealand Railways Road Services bookings and ticket office in Stout Street, Wellington.

It was in Wellington that she became friends with fellow worker Aroha Cook from Ngāti Wehiwehi. Together they spent weekends in Manakau, where Isobel met her future husband, Reeve Ransfield.

They married in 1952 and with Reeve also with the Railways, lived in a Railway house in the township of Manakau, later moving to Dunstan Street, Ōtaki, in the late 60s following the restructuring of New Zealand Railways.

From that time, she happily took on the traditional role of home-keeper, raising six children.

However, she remained an active participant in marae activities, working closely with various whānau.

When Reeve died aged only 46 in 1977, Isobel still had young teenagers at home.

She became more involved at the marae. Having been raised with te reo Māori at Ngāti Manawa, she was keen to pass on her knowledge of the language to others – both young and old. She also enrolled recently in a kaumātua course at Te Wānanga o Raukawa, which she was never able to complete.

Son Rangi Ransfield said Isobel was very meticulous in everything she did and was “not afraid to chew you out if and when the need arose”.

# Advocate for a ‘fair go’

By Michael Moore

**Susanne Chetwin has been recognised for her services to consumer rights in the New Year Honours, becoming a Companion of the NZ Order of Merit.**

Relaxing at her Te Horo beachside home, she reflects on her long career in journalism with *The Evening Post*, *Waikato Times*, and editor of *Sunday Star Times*, and *Herald on Sunday*. After 13 years, Sue stepped down in 2019 as head of Consumer NZ where she fought to ensure corporations and businesses treated New Zealanders fairly. The honour acknowledges her tenacity in fighting for the underdog and everyday consumers.

“I’ve always been interested in righting wrongs,” she says. “I don’t like injustice, I believe in a fair go for people, and get outraged when I see things I don’t think are right. That’s why I wanted to change the world when I got into journalism.”

She says there are parallels between journalism and consumer rights.

“While we’d say we were impartial [in our decisions], in fact, we were partial and would always fall on the side of the consumer.”

From her early days as the civic reporter at *The Evening Post*, she learned how bureaucracy functioned, and how the systems worked.

As chief executive at Consumer, she



**NZOM: Sue Chetwin relaxes at her Te Horo Beach home.** *Photo Michael Moore*

realised how vital the organisation’s advice was to people.

“Appliances could kill you because of electrical safety and regulation was not that good at the time. We battled for standards around electrical, children’s goods and even nighties and nylon stockings. Nowadays, your appliance isn’t going to kill you, it’s probably going to do the things you expect. There’s less consumer detriment in making a wrong decision.

Sue believes Consumer is now one of the most trusted organisations in the country.

“It’s relevant and people trust the advice. It was positioned for the future, it didn’t have its head in the

sand. It was always looking at new areas of consumer detriment like privacy and digital rights, and tried to keep pace with society.”

Consumer was established in 1959 and for many years was a government entity. It became an incorporated society in 1989, and now has 90,000 members.

Sue isn’t going quietly into retirement. She is completing a law degree, looking at rights from a global perspective. She has been appointed to the Financial Markets Authority board and serves on Food Standards Australia New Zealand. Last year she chaired a policy review of Internet NZ domain names.

TE WHAKAMINENGA O KĀPITI

## KIA HIWA RĀ! Māori Economic Development Fund

Applications are being considered for Council’s Māori Economic Development Fund with \$60,000 available for projects that align to the Māori Economic Development Strategy.

The fund aims to assist whānau, hapū, iwi, mātāwaka and Māori business in Kāpiti with their costs associated in the ongoing development of Māori economic activity.

### Application dates:

**Opens: Monday 11 January**

**Closes: Friday 5 February**

Download the strategy and application form at  
[www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/maori-ed-grant](http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/maori-ed-grant)

This is a contestable fund. Amounts awarded will be based on the strength of each application’s alignment to the strategy.

### For further information contact:

**Iwi Partnerships Team Programme Advisor**

**Kāpiti Coast District Council**

**Ph: 04 296 4700 or 0800 486 486**

**Email: [kapiti.council@kapiticoast.govt.nz](mailto:kapiti.council@kapiticoast.govt.nz)**



THREE GENERATIONS: Pirate Finlay West, 4, mother Madeline and grandmother Carma Simpson at the Ōtaki Playcentre leaving ceremony.  
Photo Sonia Speedy

# Three playcentre generations

By Sonia Speedy

**Ōtaki Playcentre ended 2020 on a high with a ceremony celebrating not only five children graduating to primary school, but also three generations of involvement with the centre.**

Finlay West, 4, and his mother, Madeline, have now both attended the playcentre, with Madeline taken along as a child by her mother, Carma Simpson.

“It was quite emotional, I had tears in my eyes watching the graduation ceremony,” says Carma, who came back to see the graduation.

Other children graduating included Saeda Frost, Dylan Stoddart, Lachlan Bell and Aiden Cowley. For Madeline, a previous co-president of the centre, it was the end of

eight years involvement, as her two older children were playcentre kids, too.

“I’ve enjoyed reflecting this week on our time here and what the centre has meant to Finn and the older kids,” she said. “It’s been a big part of our lives.

“Being on session at playcentre has been great fun. It’s been fun for the kids, but fun for me, too. It’s all about play at playcentre, and learning and growing together as families. I’ve learnt a lot, both as a parent and from being part of a co-operative.”

Madeline says she’s enjoyed being able to bring all three of her children along and have their needs met, from baby through to older preschooler.

“It kept things simple. I also like that the kids got to know the whole families, not

just the other kids who come to playcentre. It means they go to school with a really secure sense of how they can interact with the adults in their lives.”

Carma says she’s made many good friends in her time at the centre, several of whom she still sees regularly, including locals Liz Jull, Sue Barrett and Liz Manins. “It was just as much about finding support for us as parents as it was for the children.”

About 20 families are involved with Ōtaki Playcentre in Mill Road, which runs an outdoor nature session on Mondays, along with sessions on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Madeline says the centre is grateful for the community support in 2020, especially from the Ōtaki Menzshed.

# Look out for toxic algae

**Dog owners especially should keep an eye out for toxic algae in waterways with the warmer temperatures.**

The warning from Kāpiti Coast District Council includes lagoons in parks and reserves, as well as rivers and streams. Already Greater Wellington Regional Council is advising of dangerous algae levels in the Wairarapa’s Waipoua River and high levels in Te Awa Kairangi (Hutt River).

KCDC environmental standards manager Jacquie Muir says it’s likely toxic algae will appear soon in some parts of Kāpiti.

“We’re noticing the water levels slowly dropping and temperatures rising, so it is possible cyanobacteria, an algae which is toxic to humans and deadly for dogs, will appear,” Jacquie says.

“We’re increasing signage at recreational swimming sites and taking this opportunity to remind people to be aware of the risks.”

Along with GWRC, the council monitors recreational swimming sites weekly during summer. Test results from popular rivers, lagoons and beaches are available on the council’s website (look for water quality at [kapiticoast.govt.nz](http://kapiticoast.govt.nz)).

Dogs are strongly attracted to the musty smell of drying algae mats and will eat them where they can, which can be fatal. It’s safer to walk your dog at the beach during the summer.

Keep an eye on babies and toddlers who might put objects in their mouth. Seek emergency medical attention immediately if anyone swallows toxic algae.

Toxic algae (cyanobacteria) generally form brown or black mats that grow on rocks in the riverbed. Mats that come loose can wash up on the riverbank or float in shallow areas. When exposed, the mats can dry out and turn light brown or white and can produce a strong musty odour. Cyanobacteria differ from harmless bright green algae, which often form long filaments. (For more information, see [gw.govt.nz/toxic-algae](http://gw.govt.nz/toxic-algae))



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# Sorry station stirs upgrade calls

The sorry state of Ōtaki's railway station has renewed calls for an urgent upgrade, before the historic station becomes beyond repair.

A notice of motion to the Ōtaki Community Board in November by ward councillor James Cootes proposed that Land Information NZ (Linz) and Greater Wellington Regional Council be approached about urgently upgrading the station (search "motions" at otakitoday.com).

However, recent social media posts have revived the issue after several locals noted broken windows and the general state of disrepair. Many posters also commented nostalgically on their recollections of the station when it functioned as an operational station.

James says the effort to upgrade is "a bit of a long, sorry saga".

"Previously KCDC used to lease the build on behalf of the Crown," he says. "However, since the Christchurch earthquakes, it was declared earthquake-prone and as a result KCDC no longer manages the building. Linz is currently responsible for it."

The earthquake issues mainly relate to the historic chimney in the centre of the building.

For the past couple of years, James has been advocating for the station to be adequately maintained and ultimately made available again for lease, "so we can get some vibrancy in the area". The situation is complicated by the earthquake status, an issue with the canopy, changes to the rail tracks due to the new expressway, and that it is or could be part of a treaty settlement.

"As far as I'm aware there's a genuine willingness from all parties to attend to the building's condition, but in typical bureaucratic



DERELICT: Ōtaki's historic railway station is falling into disrepair, with tagging and broken windows.

fashion these things take time. Meanwhile, the building sits and rots, is tagged and windows are broken."

James says he's continuing to pursue a satisfactory outcome to what is an iconic building and one of the entrances to the Ōtaki community.

The station building dates from 1911. It was designed by renowned architect George Troup, who is famous for his design of the Dunedin Railway Station.

The original station was opened as an intermediate station on the Wellington to

Manawatū Line when the line itself was opened in 1886.

It had a "ladies" waiting room and an office for the stationmaster. The yard to the east had four tracks, a loading ramp, a goods shed, an engine house and turntable. A refreshment room was added in 1893.

A new station was built in 1909, but was destroyed by fire only a year later, on July 24, 1910.

The replacement "Type B" station was opened in February 1911. It has a New Zealand Historic Places Trust Class II listing.

## IN BRIEF

### No slackening in house prices

Property prices continue to leap in Ōtaki. Figures from homes.co.nz show house prices rising 8.5 percent in the three months to December, 10.4 percent in the last six months, and 18.9 percent over 12 months. The estimated median house price rose by \$10,000 from November to December, to \$520,000.

### Fire chief praises public

Ōtaki fire chief Ian King is full of praise for the public after the volunteer brigade received no calls from December 20 to the end of the year. "This was previously unheard of," he says. "The Ōtaki public need to be congratulated on their vigilance and safe practices over this time. The volunteers certainly enjoyed the break." The total number of calls in 2020 was 205, up 4.5 percent on 2019. In December, there were only 13 calls: three for motor vehicle accidents; two each for special services (power lines down), medicals, rubbish or scrub fires, and private fire alarms; one car fire and one for assistance to Levin.

## MISSING

**LOST DOG:** A much-loved brown and white, long-haired jack russell terrier has been lost in Ōtaki. If found or sighted, please phone Duncan on 022 364-6901



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# HUATAU/Comment

PLAIN SPEAKING: IAN CARSON

## Infusion needed now before old station meets an early demise

**Bureaucracy is not much of a friend to people who want to “get things done”.**

It’s certainly not a friend of Ōtaki people who are becoming increasingly embarrassed by the state of the town’s historic railway station.

The station is typical of buildings that are vacant, unattended and looking like no one cares. Many windows are broken, paint is peeling, and taggers have made nocturnal visits. It looks – and is – neglected. But many locals don’t want to see it that way.

As in “the good old days” when the town had its own borough council and more lax health and safety regulations, they want to just get in and tidy the building up.

Of course it’s not that simple, no matter how much we might want it



to be. Kāpiti Coast District Council can’t be blamed – they have no jurisdiction over the building. In fact, local ward councillor James Cootes has been fighting for a station upgrade for a couple of years, and moved recently at an Ōtaki Community Board meeting that the council write to Land Information NZ and the Greater Wellington Regional Council to get some action.

Linz has managed the building since it was deemed to be an earthquake risk after the Christchurch shake 10 years ago, and the regional



**EMBARRASSMENT:** Ōtaki’s railway station has plenty of visitors when the steam trains come to town, but its condition is becoming an embarrassment for locals.

council is responsible for the platform, which is part of its rail network. There’s a myriad of complications (see story page 7) ready-made for a

bureaucrat’s best day at the office.

At the core of it is undoubtedly money. No one wants to spend anything until the paperwork is done.

But meantime, the place is becoming a wreck, with locals keen to do tidy-up work, and even fundraise to restore it to its former glory.

Many residents have fond memories of the old station. Market gardeners loaded wagons with produce at the sidings, rugby fans caught the express to test matches at Athletic Park, and when the circus came to town, the elephants drank from the canvas hose at the water tower.

There’s still plenty of life left in the old station, but it needs an infusion if it’s not to meet an early demise.

The bureaucrats need to let that happen now, and sort out the paperwork later.

■ *Ian is editor of Ōtaki Today. Mayor K Gurnathan returns with his regular column in February after a holiday break.*

LOCAL LENS: JAMES COOTES

## The current system is broken – a recurring theme

**Towards the end of last year Cr Gwynn Compton issued a media release calling on all parties in Parliament “to establish a royal commission on local government to review and overhaul the sector so it’s fit for purpose to keep delivering the services and facilities our communities need”.**

Serving in his first term like many other Kāpiti councillors, Gwynn has started to see the immense load local councils around New Zealand carry and the ever-increasing responsibilities lumped onto them by central government.

Gwynn’s call for a review reminded

me of a piece I wrote for the *Ōtaki Mail* nearly two years ago to the day titled “The current system is broken”.

In that column I mentioned the “dire need for more affordable housing/rentals but our current 118 social houses run at a loss”.

I also wrote that “councils have limited means in which to raise funds to operate and provide the services they do”, and to compound the matter that “councils’ workloads and costs are continuing to increase due to the multitude of new work rolling out from central government, new policy, new standards, new reporting all adding more costs”.



I finished the column by stating that “for councils to continue to fund the plethora of things they’re required to do and not continue to increase rates, something has to change as the current system is broken”.

Now, I’m not suggesting for a minute that Gwynn has read my article and then penned his piece.

More simply that his experience and call for a review supports my experience and comments I made two years earlier and highlight the need for something to change.

Ratepayers are growing tired of year-on-year rate increases and elected members are getting sick of being the target of angry ratepayers. That’s why you’ll continue to see a high turnover of elected members around New Zealand as they struggle with the impossible task of keeping ratepayers happy while maintaining an adequate level of investment in our infrastructure and services.

The big question is . . . will the

Government do anything? It’s already moved to take the “three waters” away from councils, but by the sounds of it, it’s looking at councils being responsible for fulfilling the “four well beings” (economic, social, cultural and environmental) delivering on things such as housing etc.

Whatever the Government decides, local government needs to make a united stand and ensure we are adequately resourced to do so, because something has to change!

■ *James is Ōtaki Ward Councillor*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Toy Library seeks sponsorship

Dear editor:

The Ōtaki Toy Library is seeking sponsorship from local businesses who might like to support this amazing community organisation by contributing towards a part-time (3 hours a week) paid administrative position. This is critical for the toy library to be sustainable and better support its volunteer members and families. The total we are looking for is less than \$5000 for the year, so this should hopefully be achievable with support from just a few businesses. The toy library is a registered charity so we also think it would be a tax-deductible donation. We’re also interested in discussing ways that we would acknowledge this and contribute to the ongoing success of our sponsors.

*Rhian Salmon*

*Ōtaki Toy Library: toylibraryotaki@gmail.com*

ŌTAKI OUTLOOK: CHRIS PAPPS

## New year resolutions and the Long-Term Plan

**Did you make a new year resolution? Neither did I.**

Traditionally they’re the ones nobody believes in and nobody really thinks will happen. The other tradition is that if you tell people what the resolutions were then they won’t happen anyway.

I think many of us have the same feelings and views about the Long-Term Plans and even the Annual Plans the council is required to develop.

So, it’s a bit difficult to find something to tell you about what the community board and the council are up to at this time of the holidays and before our first meeting of the year.

All of us are considering the proposals we can make to the Long-Term Plan. This is a 30-year plan that we review every three years – go figure. And while we’re doing that we update the Annual Plan.

Over the past several months councillors and community board members have been tasked



with looking for ideas and proposals from their networks and contacts that might contribute to the development of the welfare and interests of our communities.

We’ve been approached by groups and individuals with ideas. Some we’ve worked on and developed, and others we’ve asked to develop their own ideas further and/or work on submissions of their own to council.

In the next few weeks the community boards and councillors will put their ideas into the formal process. Ultimately they will be

presented to council for their review.

Some of the ideas and proposals will fail because of long-term budget considerations or other limitations. Some will fail because of politics. Others will succeed in whole or in part because they contribute to long-term local, regional and national objectives.

Your Ōtaki Community Board members have sought ideas and worked with various groups and we have our own group proposal to put forward that, we hope and believe, will contribute to the development and welfare of our community.

But, like new year resolutions, we can’t tell you what they are until they are presented and considered because we don’t want to build up expectations on which we can’t deliver.

It’s true what they say: “Be careful what you wish for.”

■ *Chris is chair of the Ōtaki Community Board*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you have something to say, write to us. Please include your full name, address and contact phone number. Only letters that include these details will be published, unless there is good reason to withhold a name. Maximum 200 words. Note your letter may be edited for grammar and accuracy. Not all letters received will be published and the publisher reserves the right to reject any letter. Write to *Ōtaki Today*, 13 Te Manuao Rd, Ōtaki or email [letters@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:letters@idmedia.co.nz)

**OPINION:** Note that the views and opinions of our contributors are not necessarily those of *Ōtaki Today*.

# Is Covid disruption the warning we all needed?

**T**he year 2020 goes down as a horror time for so many self-evident reasons. What could be worse than people around the world losing their means of living, or even losing their lives?

But there will naturally be those who seek a return to “the good old days” with an expectation of collective amnesia about what just happened, and a denial about whether the old days were really that good.

That might be possible if last year’s events were nothing more than an aberration and normal transmission is about to recommence, much like a sunny day follows a thunderstorm. There’s ample and increasing evidence that a pandemic was almost inevitable and it’s now likely to remain – one way or another – a thorn in humanity’s side for some time.

Scientists and other academics are suggesting that the pandemic acted like a sudden and fast-moving crisis, within the envelope of a much bigger and slower crisis – climate change and habitat destruction. In other words, destruction of habitats and climate change are running in parallel with impacts on human health.

For people who thought that our assault on the planet merely reduced the number of wild animals and meant bananas could now be grown in Invercargill, it comes as a bit of a shock to realise we humans are actually quite dependent on a healthy ecosystem.

So, can the world face up to a Covid recovery and meaningfully turn the page on the broader



environmental issues?

Since the 2015 Paris agreement on climate change there have been plenty of encouraging developments, such as countries committing to reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

But action has been patchy and too many unmotivated countries are still looking the other way.

The realities of the pandemic and the tikanga of recovery can surely change that. For example, it’s a chance for governments and businesses to undertake investments that were previously deemed too fool-hardy or expensive.

With affirmative action, the post-Covid economy can morph into a genuinely prosperous green economy that protects the environment and helps feed and nourish people.

It will be essential that resources aimed at

the Covid recovery also speed up action against the climate crisis. Money spent on boosting economic development and keeping people employed need to also build communities that are sustainable and resilient.

Make no mistake. Humanity has been served notice – a fair warning that ignorance and inaction is headless folly. Politicians might sometimes be too slow to recognise such trends and imperatives, but the shift will inevitably accelerate with the yearnings of citizens for a more stable and prosperous world.

Of course, there will be those who crave for “normalcy” and a return to a fictional golden age, as Warren Harding’s US presidential campaign did in 1920 to exhort electors to forget the horrors of the First World War and the Spanish flu. But rather than heeding Harding’s shuttered view, the 1920s (the Roaring Twenties) sought new horizons and broke into turbo-charged

overdrive of risk-taking and innovation in search of new and better ways.

Let’s heed the lessons of last year’s infractions, rather than assuming them to be an aberration and normal transmission is about to commence.

Of course, there remains a significant question about the roughly 70 million people who recently voted for a climate-change denying US president, which any sane person would regard as a lying, child-like misogynist. Fortunately Trump was defeated, but while the truth and a willingness to turn away from facts is a “normalcy” for so many people, facing up to the issues the world needs to confront is perhaps the biggest challenge we face.

■ Fraser is a member of the XŌtaki College Alumni Trust and founding partner of Flightdec.com. Flightdec’s kaupapa is to challenge the status quo of the internet to give access to more reliable and valuable citizen generated content, and to improve connectivity and collaboration. He can be contacted at [fraser@flightdec.com](mailto:fraser@flightdec.com)

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FRASER CARSON

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# EXCITEMENT RETURNS

## Ōtaki gears up for ninth kite festival

**Kirsty Doyle is excited. As director of the Ōtaki Kite Festival, she's got good reason to be.**

It's not just that 2021 marks the ninth year for the hugely popular event, but that it's able to go ahead at all after the tumultuous year just past.

"Of course, anything can still happen with Covid, but we're geared up for another iconic Ōtaki event and looking forward to having many thousands of people come along to enjoy the weekend," Kirsty says. "What better way to celebrate a positive new year."

The festival will again be at Ōtaki Beach, during the weekend of February 6 and 7. It's become a much-anticipated region-wide event full of family fun, market stalls and entertainment.

The feature of the weekend, however, is always the kites. Visitors are wowed by the huge variety of kites – from the ever-popular giant kites to the tiny, acrobatic and single line, weird and wonderful created and flown by invited kite enthusiasts from throughout New Zealand.

What's also special is that young and old can enjoy flying their own kites on the expansive beach. Bring your own or buy one from the information stall. It's a festival for everyone – kids and grown-ups, amateurs and professionals.

Flyers from all over New Zealand will be attending thanks to the ongoing support of the New Zealand Kite Flyers Association.

*continues next page*



Thousands of visitors flock to Ōtaki Beach every summer for the spectacle of the Ōtaki Kite Festival.

# ŌTAKI KITE FESTIVAL

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# ŌTAKI KITE FESTIVAL



ŌTAKI *Kite* FESTIVAL

## PROGRAMME

### Saturday 6 February

- 11.00am Taiko Drummers
- 12 noon Biggest Little Circus
- 1.00pm Harcourts Big Dig\*
- 2.00pm Tui Tahere-Katene and James Stent sing
- 2.00pm Kites behind boats (offshore)
- 3.00pm Taiko Drummers
- 4.00pm Biggest Little Circus
- 5.00pm Close

### Sunday 7 February

- 11.00am Harcourts Big Dig\*
- 12 noon Biggest Little Circus
- 1.00pm Ōtaki Surf Life Saving Club demonstration\*
- 2.00pm Kites behind boats (offshore)
- 3.00pm Musical showcase
- 4.00pm Biggest Little Circus
- 5.00pm Close

\* Denotes entertainment on the beach.

Programme may be subject to change. Kite flying hours both days 10am-5pm.



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ŌTAKI & ARA Ō

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# Excitement returns for



Food and craft stalls, food trucks, and kids entertainment are just part of the festival fun.



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**'LOCALS LOOKING AFTER LOCALS'**

FEBRUARY 6-7

# ninth Ōtaki Kite Festival

from page 11

While border restrictions have reduced the number of international kite flyers this year, it has meant that several flyers who would normally be attending overseas festivals are now able to come to Ōtaki.

Trent Baker of Australia will be the only international guest this year. He is a graduate of architecture and design is currently living in Ashburton designing a range of show kites for Peter Lynn Kites. Trent brings years of kite flying skills to the festival and some special never-seen-before kites.

For the first time at any festival in New Zealand, the waters off Ōtaki Beach will feature kites behind boats, thanks to the attendance of Craig Hansen, co-director of Peter Lynn Kites. Craig has been interested in kites for about 45 years and attends festivals all over the world. With a passion for wind power, he is one of the fastest people in the world driven by kite power, having crossed the Sahara Desert by kite buggy. Craig and his team (weather permitting) will be flying kites over the water off the beach.

Meanwhile, on the stage the festival will have Colossal – Biggest Little Circus performing two shows a day on both Saturday and Sunday. The show includes everything from highly skilled juggling to aerial acrobatics and even a human changing room.

The Biggest Little Circus is a show full of audience interaction, uniquely Kiwi comedy, excellent circus skills and street theatre that aims to engage and entertain audiences.

A regular crowd favourite, the Mukume Taiko Drummers, perform on Saturday and the popular Harcourts Big Dig will be offer prizes for the kids on both days of the festival.

Local singers and musicians will entertain on the stage near the

pavilion throughout the weekend.

Tasty food will be on offer from a big range of food trucks and stalls. There will also be stalls selling a range of items from home-made jams to crystals

“We also have local community groups fundraising in 2021, offering everything from sausage sizzles to hangi,” Kirsty says. “We’re proud to be able to offer the opportunity for groups to raise funds for great local causes.”

For the little ones there will be merry-go-rounds, slides and a kite train. For those older, there will be a large inflatable slide, and for the thrill seekers a chance to ride on a wind-powered buggy.

Kirsty says that among the fun of the festival, there’s also a serious side.

“A little known fact about the Ōtaki Kite Festival is the effort put into being a zero waste event,” she says. “All waste collected over the weekend is sorted and split into recycling groups by hand. Teams of volunteers man each waste station to help in this process.

“We’re proud to be one of the leading zero waste festivals.”

Kāpiti Coast District Council continues to support the festival through its Major Events Fund.

“Without funding we would not be able to offer this spectacular free family event.”

Kirsty also acknowledges the organisation that established the event in 2012 – the Ōtaki Promotions Group.

“It’s an incredibly hard-working group of volunteers. We wouldn’t have a festival without them.”

Planning for the 10th anniversary the Ōtaki Kite Festival has already begun, with hopes that international visitors and kite flyers can return.



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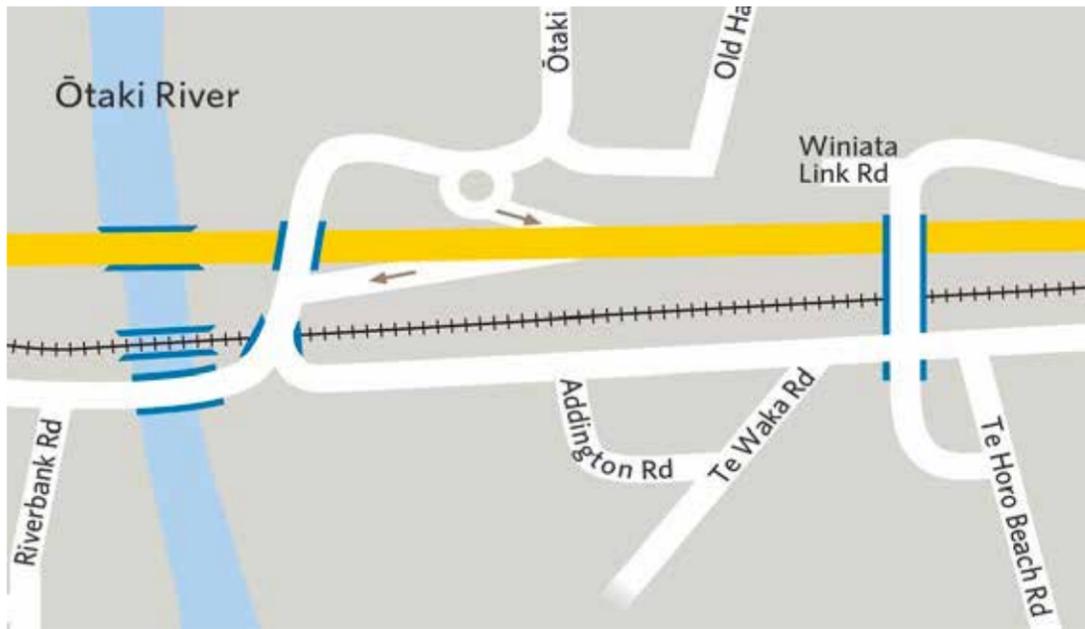
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# Otaki Gorge Road Intersection Closure 2021

The southern partial interchange for the PP20 expressway will be located on Otaki Gorge Road. As the new interchange will be up to 2.5m higher than the existing road level, the road needs to be raised. To do this, structural fill will be used to build up the area that is currently part of State Highway 1. Traffic has already been switched off this section to a temporary diversion south of the Otaki River Bridge. This will allow the project team to complete a significant amount of work until it will then become necessary to close the Otaki Gorge Road/State Highway 1 intersection to complete the work.



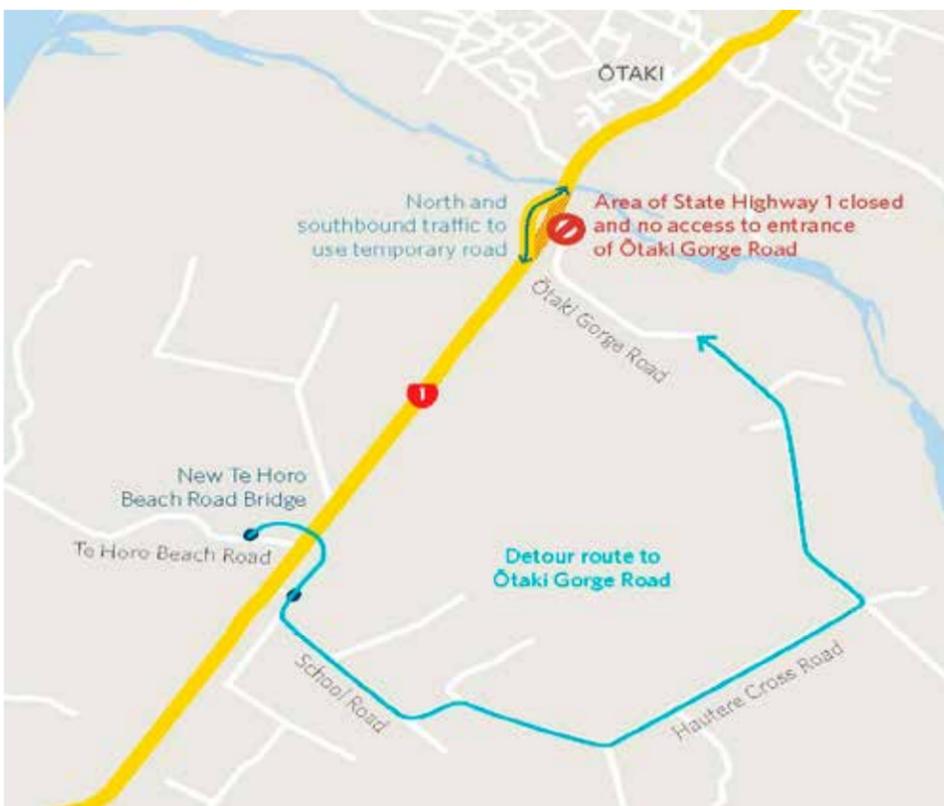
PP20 Alignment map showing the Otaki Gorge Road partial interchange..



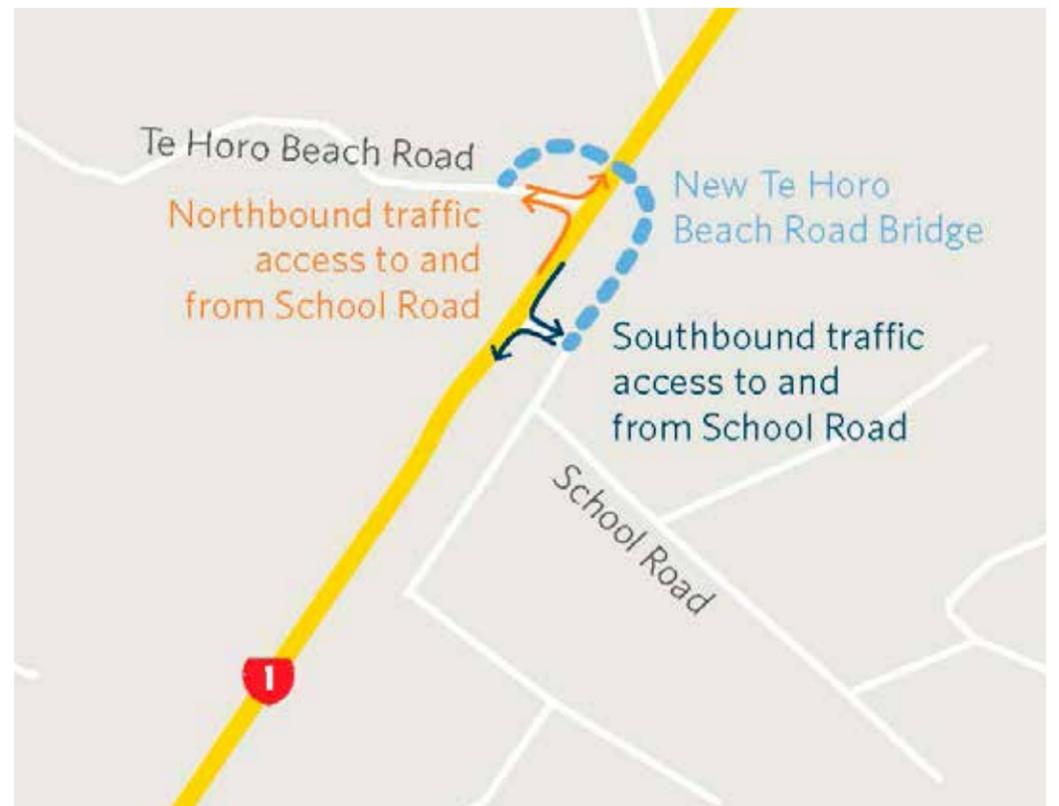
The existing Otaki Gorge Road shown parallel to the new Otaki Gorge Road Bridge shows the area that needs to be built up to form the new expressway partial interchange.

The intersection will be closed for a period of up to 11 weeks from the end of February/early March 2021.

During the closure, Otaki Gorge Road traffic will be diverted via School Road and then Haute Cross Road. The Te Horo Beach Road bridge (Bridge 8) will be open prior to the closure allowing northbound traffic to enter and exit School Road without having to cross the centre line. Southbound traffic ONLY travelling to and from School Road will continue to use the existing School Road/State Highway 1 intersection (i.e. left in and left out).



Diversion route to Otaki Gorge Road.



Map showing School Road Left in/Left out access.

Regular progress updates and information on milestones will be available during the intersection closure. Residents and interested parties are encouraged to subscribe to receive these via [nzta.govt.nz/pp2o](https://nzta.govt.nz/pp2o)

# MAHI TOI/Arts



**THE SLAB:** Popular Horowhenua band Peanut Slab will entertain at 1.30pm as part of the Purebread Ōtaki Summer Music Carnival at Memorial Park. The originals and covers band have a rhythm and blues base with a reggae twist, covering music from the 70s to now. They have performed at many Purebread festivals and are back by popular demand.

## Pure music at free park event

Free outdoor music is coming to Ōtaki on the Saturday of Wellington Anniversary weekend with the Purebread Ōtaki Summer Music Carnival.

Part of a Kāpiti-wide celebration, the event will be at Memorial Gardens, next to the Civic Theatre in Main Street on January 23 from 10.30am to 4.30pm. Apart from the music, there will be a free bouncy castle for the kids and free sausage sizzle.

The music starts and ends with DJ Just Press Play, who will continue throughout the day between live acts.

Kāpiti-based Latin American jazz ensemble Brasso play at 11am. Their musical set includes some originals and popular covers with a jazz twist. Brasso features vocalist and drummer Rob Glensor, who founded Purebread. Also featured is local identity David Langley who arranges the music for Brasso. David will perform on his trumpet/flugel horn and sing several numbers. Talented female vocal soloist Teneka Snow will perform several numbers with the band.

Awan & Friends, a classic rock covers band will be on stage from 12.15pm. It's the third time band will be playing a Purebread event.

At 1.30pm, popular Horowhenua band Peanut Slab will entertain. An originals and covers five-piece band with a rhythm and blues base and a reggae twist, Peanut Slab will cover music from the 70s to now.

The final band for the day will be well-known Ōtaki-based covers band Sparkle, taking the stage at 2.45pm. The four-piece female band play a mixture of soul and funk, with their own unique twist.

"Bring yourself and the family, a picnic basket and a blanket, come early, and enjoy five hours of live rock, blues, soul, R&B and jazz," says event organiser Chris Craddock.

If the weather is not good the event will move to the nearby Telegraph Hotel.

After the daytime performances, the music will continue later in the evening at The Telegraph with a further four hours of live music from Awan & Friends, Sparkle and Peanut Slab. It will start at 9pm.

### IMAGES OF ŌTAKI



Thanks to John Davey for this shot of Ōtaki Beach as the sun begins to set. He's called it *Refraction Angel* and it was taken with standard settings on his phone.

We all love seeing images of what makes Ōtaki special, and *Ōtaki Today* staff take plenty of photos as they work around town. But we know people take lots of other great photos and we'd love to share with readers, who are not just locals but visitors, too. So please email your image and we'll choose one each month to reproduce on this page. Email us: [otakiphotos@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:otakiphotos@idmedia.co.nz)

## Look for mysterious in Pye exhibition

Ōtaki-based artist Trevor Pye is encouraging visitors to his exhibition at Mahara Gallery to find something mysterious and logic-defying in his work.

Best known for his award-winning work as an illustrator of children's books, he is now more interested in interpreting landscape and its relationship to still life.

His Mahara exhibition is called *The Still Life of Reverie*.

"Einstein said, 'the most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious,'" Trevor says.

"I paint to remind myself of mystery. It is the contemplation of mystery that gives rise to wonder and wonder invites us into a poetic frame of mind – a state of reverie.

"Reverie is a state where I am not bound by preconceptions or logic. My rational mind takes a nap."

Trevor was born in Te Awamutu and went to school in Taranaki. His career in art began at age 30 when he went to art school in Adelaide, South Australia.

Back in New Zealand, he gained a master of fine arts degree with first class honours from Auckland University's Elam School of Fine Arts and worked as a senior lecturer at Auckland University of Technology.

He has won awards for both his fine-art work and as a children's picture-book illustrator. His best known children's book work is the *Grandma McGarvey* series.

The exhibition is on until February 13.

## Festival of Pots & Garden Art 2021

January 22nd - 27th 10am - 4pm

*Please note the Festival is running for a shorter time period than previous years.*



[www.otakipotteryclub.org](http://www.otakipotteryclub.org)

Anam Cara Gardens 150 Rangiora Rd Otaki

# MAHI MĀRA/Gardening

## Give citrus a hearty mid-summer feed

**M**idsummer is citrus feeding time. This feed is especially important for young trees to get them growing strongly while the weather is warm, so they are hearty when winter comes. Be sure to nourish ailing citrus, too, although all citrus will benefit from a dose of goodness this month.

### THE EDIBLE GARDEN



#### KATH IRVINE

*Kath Irvine has been growing vegetables to feed her family for 21 years. Spray-free, natural, low-input food gardens are her thing. She believes smart design saves time, money and the planet, and makes a garden hum. She recycles, reuses and forages, and uses as little plastic as possible. Kath believes in a daily serve of freshly picked organic greens for a happy mind and strong body. She provides organic gardening advice through her articles, books, workshops and garden consultations.*

your citrus back to health. Add Neem to this spray if sooty mould (aphids in disguise), whitefly, scale or thrips are aboard.

### NATURAL KAI

Natural stuff that the soil knows and understands is the best. Rotten manure or seaweed, buried fish waste and/or compost are my top picks here to build the humus-rich soil (image top right) that citrus need to thrive.

Organic matter is the answer. It provides nutrients in a pick-and-mix style for your trees – when they need them they can dip in.

Liquid foliar feed is an immediate way to get nutrient into your trees. I recommend a seaweed or fish spray once a month if all is well – if not then as often as weekly to bring

### THIN FRUITS

As well as feeding youngsters, you should be removing any fruits that are setting on trees less than two years old.

Two to 4-year-old trees should have fruits thinned. Leave a ratio of one fruit per seven leaves – ish. But please, don't spend all day counting! The idea is to have more leaves than fruits to keep your trees stress-free and their focus firmly on a strong frame and root system. Thinning pays out in dividends (or should I say lemons), in the years to come.

I give you these years and numbers as something to hang your hat on. Let the tree's health and vitality guide you here.

### MULCH

Mulch is key. It adds another layer to your soil health by bringing in more soil life, moderating temperature, holding moisture and reducing weeds. Citrus don't do as well when grass or weeds compete with their shallow feeder roots. Lay wet newspaper or cardboard on top of grass then spread on compost and top it all off with a generous layer of mulch. Make your own (bottom right) by mixing grass clippings with garden waste, or rotten hay, or sawdust from the chook yard.

### WATER AND OLA POTS

Citrus must not dry out.

Humus-rich soil holds water for a good period of time. Even so, in ferocious summers and autumns you need a way to keep the soil moist if it dries out. Set yourself up for ease with a hose nearby, an outside bath alongside or a bucket left out by your tree to capture rain.

I love Ola pots (see image at right), and use them in parts of the garden that are a long way from the hose. Ola pots are unglazed terracotta pots with a lid. Bury them beside the tree and fill them once a week if there's no rain, for a slow release drink right where it's needed, at the roots.



Too many fruit, this citrus needs thinning



Humus-rich soil



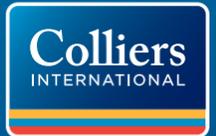
Buried fish waste



Ola pot



Homemade mulch



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*We acknowledge and thank the Philipp Family Foundation Charitable Trust for their support.*

# PAKIHI/Business

## Te Rōpū Pakihi celebrates 21 years

**One of the country's earliest economic development organisations for Māori celebrated 21 years of service late last year.**

Te Rōpū Pakihi – a Māori business network for Horowhenua and Kāpiti – emerged from a meeting of nine businesses in 1999. It was established to fulfill a need to specifically support and encourage local Māori business people.

It now has more than 200 affiliated business operators and supporters.

Te Rōpū Pakihi (TRP) supports business in several ways:

- whakawhanaungatanga – connecting with others through functions, events and membership promotions
- manaakitanga – a kaupapa-based mentoring and support initiative
- rangatiratanga – learning from experts with clinics, workshops and resources.

Speaking during 21st celebrations at the Winemaker's Daughter café in Te Horo, director Daphne Luke said TRP had hosted regional and national business expos, held four regional business awards, hosted hundreds of

breakfasts, lunches, dinners and after-5s, and mentored thousands of start-ups between Porirua and Manawātū.

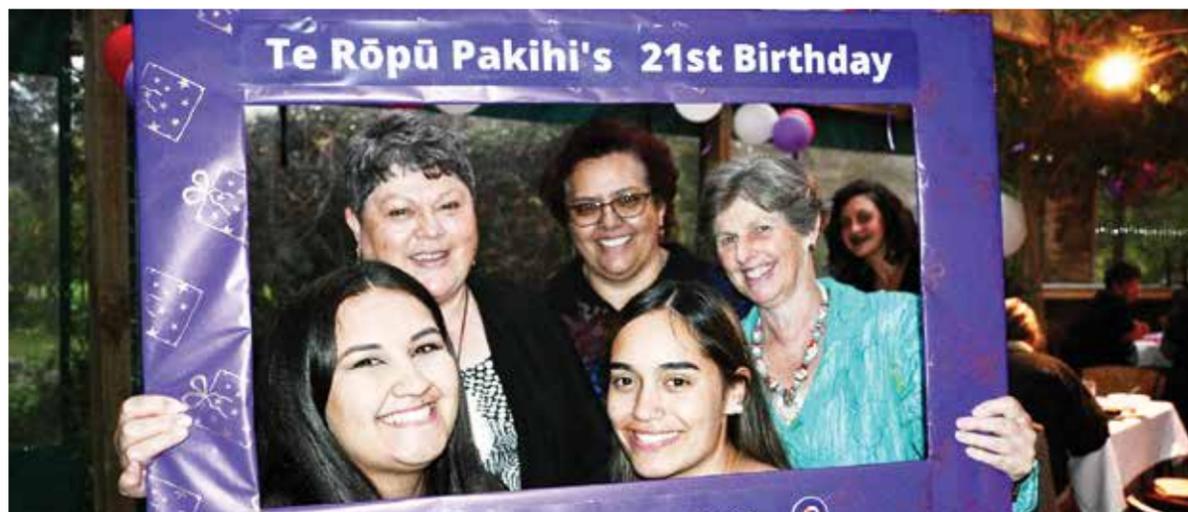
"We've organised mana wahine events, the network-led Te Aho, the five-year economic development strategy for Māori mai i Rangitikei ki Whitireia, we've held national gatherings of Māori business networks and are actively working with the six other networks that cover the Te Tai Hauaruru region."

Daphne said she was especially proud of online initiative Hokohoko, which was established during the Covid-19 lockdown.

"During Covid, our members told us they needed an online selling platform that would promote their businesses and automate the sales process... within three weeks we had 25 stores on the site."

That number has grown to more than 60 with Te Puni Kōkiri funding that has allowed TRP to pay for a dedicated employee, Kahu McLay.

Aligned to Te Rōpū Pakihi is Amatiatia, which has offices in Main Street, Ōtaki.



**TEAM:** The Amatiatia team, from left Kahu McLay, Ana Winiata, Daphne Luke, Kimiora Winiata and Anthea Napier.

Its kaimahi (staff) of assistants, board secretaries and financial managers offer direct support and advice to Māori business people, disseminate relevant information and organise regular networking events.

A specialist from Amatiatia can be matched to an organisation's needs, and the entire team can provide support with its collective skills and experiences.

"Outsourcing to Amatiatia on retainer is a great alternative to employing permanent staff or a no-fuss option if your employees are on leave – short or long term," says Daphne, who is also managing director of Amatiatia. "We can take care of your routine tasks that keep an organisation going so you can focus on the work you really need to do."

Amatiatia director Anthea Napier

says Māori usually take a different view of business.

"Māori will often start a business so they can provide for their whānau," she says. "And they will look at their business differently, such as giving priority to something that might be happening at the marae."

"Making money is, of course, important, but it's not the overriding focus. It's about whānau, hapū and iwi."

## Embrace change and reap the rewards in 2021

**Congratulations on getting through an incredibly tough year.**

This year, one thing is certain: change will keep happening. The only question is whether we make the changes or whether the changes are done to us.

People tend to change because they must, not because they want to. Most people would stay where they are, and hope success will come to them. To get ahead in 2021, you need to act and that means embracing change.

There's no mystical "dark art" to changing and growing. In fact, there's a simple formula that governs all change:  $(D \times V) + F > R$ .

To change, people need to be Dissatisfied (D) with their current situation. They also need a sense of what success looks like, so having a Vision (V) is critical. Dissatisfaction and Vision work together – one without the other results in no change.

In the formula, F is for First Steps, the things you need to do to get started with changing. Most people know what those steps are – losing weight starts with eating less, exercising more, sleeping better. All obvious, yet often ignored or not stuck with. Why? Because Resistance (R) to change is greater than the combined weight of your Dissatisfaction multiplied by your Vision plus the First Steps you know you must take!

If you're satisfied with being average, you won't change. If you're satisfied with where you are and haven't created a vision beyond that, you don't do much because you haven't set new goals.

What legacy do you want at the end of this year? Would you like to say you spent more

time at work, or more time with your family? Earned more money or less? Did you build a great team to support your business or did you just survive? Maybe you're working 70+ hours a week, or making just enough money to pay the bills.

We all know people who are dissatisfied with life but aren't doing anything differently. You've got to build a vision of what's possible, what you want and where you're going. And you need to build belief in that vision, because then you will know what to do and how to do it.

Of course, you still need to overcome Resistance, which

can come from many different places – from other people ("Do you really think you can work less and still make the same money?" or "Didn't you try exercise before?") or from our beliefs and identity ("That's just how it is and who I am"). Pretty much every time, however, resistance starts in the way we think. Our thoughts drive our behaviour and that forms habits that ultimately drive the outcomes we achieve.

So, to change we need to recognise we're not happy with our lot in life. In fact, we need to recognise we're dissatisfied. We need to want more and have a vision for what that really means, and we need to take the action needed to get started.

Overcoming resistance is possible and there is help out there if you need it... and that's worth thinking about.

■ This is the second in a series supporting the Entrepreneurial Growth Series of free webinars and workshops launching in 2021 to support local business. If you think you could benefit, and make your business roar in 2021, call Chris on 0222 332 669 or email [chriswhelan@actioncoach.com](mailto:chriswhelan@actioncoach.com)



## Meetings aim to boost business

**The first Ōtaki Today business network meeting for 2021 is a "speed dating for businesses" evening sponsored by First National Ōtaki.**

It will be at the Rotary Lounge at 5.30pm (turn up from 5pm) on Friday, February 12. The idea is to get everyone "back to business" with an ultimate networking blitz, rotating around multiple businesses, putting faces to names, showcasing your business and learning about other new, exciting, and innovative businesses setting up in Ōtaki.

First National principal Grant Robertson says that so many new and exciting people have moved into Ōtaki during the past five years, with the range of services available far

wider and more varied than ever before.

First National is sponsoring the drinks and nibbles, with the goal of setting the scene for a great year for Ōtaki businesses!

All Ōtaki business owners or business representatives are welcome. Text or email Debbi (027 2854720 or [debbi@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:debbi@idmedia.co.nz)) for information.

Meanwhile, First National Ōtaki has also secured leading

property industry commentator Ashley Church – the face of Onerooft and former head of NZ Property Investors Federation – to talk about his property market predictions on Wednesday, February 24, also at the Rotary Lounge from 5.30pm.

First home buyers, investors and anyone interested in property should register by emailing [admin@fnotaki.co.nz](mailto:admin@fnotaki.co.nz), or ringing Grant on 021 660113.

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# HAUORA/Health

## Coconut sugar: a natural healthy alternative?

**C**oconut sugar is a popular alternative sweetener. It is described (to use the words of various websites) as the healthier alternative to other sugars, rich in minerals and vitamins, and with a low glycemic index ideal for diabetics. And there are a number of internet recipes that are “healthier” because they have swapped ordinary sugar for coconut sugar.

Of course information on the internet is often from people selling stuff so we can expect the usual marketing hype, but what does the science say about coconut sugar (aka coconut palm sugar and coco sap sugar)?

Coconut sugar is made in a two-step process. First, the flower bud stem of the coconut palm tree is tapped to obtain coconut sap. This sap normally supplies the nutrients needed for coconut production so a tapped tree will not produce any coconuts. The sap is about 80 percent water, the rest is mainly sucrose (table sugar), along with various minerals, vitamins and antioxidants.

In the second stage of the manufacturing process the sap is heated to remove the water. This can produce a coconut syrup, or, if all the water is removed, a brown granulated coconut sugar. A typical composition of coconut sugar is 92 percent sugars: which includes about 84% sucrose, 3% glucose and 3% fructose.

On a weight basis coconut sugar supplies slightly fewer calories than white refined sugar; 1630kj versus 1700kj per 100g. This is not surprising given that coconut sugar is essentially impure sugar. But most people find coconut sugar to be less sweet than refined sugar so they tend to use more of it when sweetening things. So, all things considered, in everyday use coconut sugar will supply the same number of calories as ordinary table sugar.

Some websites have reported that coconut



HEALTH SCIENCE

DR STEVE HUMPHRIES

sugar has very low levels of fructose – a selling point as excessive fructose consumption has been linked to a number of health issues and some people wish to limit their fructose consumption. It is technically correct that coconut sugar has low (3 percent) levels of free fructose.

But coconut sugar is mainly sucrose, a disaccharide sugar that is enzymatically rapidly broken down in the small intestine into its component parts and then absorbed as an equal mix of glucose and fructose. So, as far as the body is concerned, coconut sugar is nearly half fructose.

A big reason for the popularity of coconut sugar is its claimed low glycemic index (GI) of 35. Because of this, coconut sugar has been described as ideal for diabetics. The GI value is very low for something that is mostly table sugar, but it has been hypothesised that it may be due to the presence of small amounts of inulin (a soluble fibre) that slows digestion. Many websites make the low GI claim, but just because it's repeated endlessly on the internet doesn't make it true.

The GI value of 35 is based on a single non-peer-reviewed study put out by the Philippines Coconut Authority – a non independent body who have a vested interest in promoting coconut sugar sales. An independent analysis by Sydney University, who produce extensive GI data used worldwide, report a higher GI value of 54 for coconut sugar – a value much closer to that of ordinary table sugar (GI = 65). When evaluating information it pays to consider the source.

What about claims that coconut sugar is a good source of minerals and vitamins? The place to check this is the legally binding Nutrition Information Panel (NIP) on the product, not the unsubstantiated puffery of websites selling the product. Coconut sugar supplies a lot of energy (carbs) while supplying minimal daily

requirements of important nutrients. If minerals and vitamins are not specifically listed on the NIP then the manufacturer has nothing to promote.

Manufacturers can try to get around this with various weasel words, like “coconut sugar contains 10 times the zinc of brown sugar”. Well that's true, but brown sugar is a terrible source of zinc – and, as they say in mathematics, “10 times very little is still very little”. A serving of coconut sugar will give you only 1 percent of your daily requirement of zinc, while supplying you with carbs you probably don't need. Bottom line, get your nutrients from healthy wholesome food, not from a sugar.

Some websites talk about coconut sugar being caramelised during production to produce the characteristic malty-caramel flavour. In fact most of the aroma and taste, and browning, of coconut sugar is the result of the Maillard reaction – a chemical reaction between reducing sugars (glucose and fructose) and amino acids that are naturally present in the coconut sap.

Maillard reaction products (MRPs) impart a delicious aroma and flavour to foods – the smell and taste of freshly baked biscuits, roasted coffee, potato chips and fried onions. However, excessive consumption of MRPs is implicated in oxidative stress and a wide range of health problems.

For this reason it is recommended that foods containing high levels of MRPs, for example potato chips or food fried at too high a temperature, should be avoided or minimised.

Most BBQs today have lids to give more even heating and less burning, and consequently produce less MRPs.

Palm sugars contain relatively high levels of MRPs. 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural, an MRP found in coconut sugar, is a cytotoxin known to have adverse effects on human health. A maximum limit of 40 milligrams per kilo is set for honey production, but in one study three out of 10 palm sugars exceeded this limit. Darker coloured coconut sugars indicate a more extensive Maillard reaction, and therefore a higher MRP content.

Many MRPs, including 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural, are antioxidants. While people generally view antioxidants as something healthy, they are, in fact, a reactive class of chemicals that can be toxic and even carcinogenic. So when a

website claims that their coconut sugar has high antioxidant activity it would pay to ask if that is due to naturally occurring polyphenols, or the production of unhealthy MRPs formed during processing.

We should remind ourselves that coconut sugar is a commercial processed product. Coconut sugar doesn't exist in nature, we make it – and it's made to be delicious, not healthy. By all means treat yourself to the sweet malty-caramel taste of coconut sugar in moderation. But we should not fool ourselves that it is a natural healthy alternative. The science tells us otherwise.

■ 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.



## Accountability key to reaching goals

**Y**ou're not going to reach your health and fitness goals unless you hold yourself accountable.

If you can't hold yourself accountable, you need to have someone else hold you accountable. That's why many people, when they make that firm decision to get a personal trainer, go to a class with friends or schedule their exercise sessions.

If your new year resolution was to improve your health and fitness, first of all I want to applaud you. You're about to go on a journey that will improve your life.

Now, what's your plan? Because you have to have a plan.

Is it to start exercising with some friends? Your partner? Or to get the help of a professional like myself?

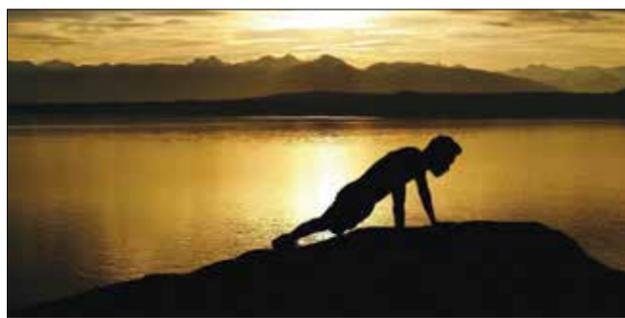
My advice is to get the help of a qualified professional to help you write a plan and get started. That's where I come in. Don't rely on the advice of unqualified people. The fitness community has a big enough problem with “bro-science” in the gym. This often leads to injuries.

The best part about getting a trainer is that you get the best advice, correct evaluation about what your capabilities are and importantly, an exercise prescription based on what your functional abilities are. There's no point in you trying to do exercises, doing them incorrectly and getting no benefit from them. Having the advice and guidance of a trainer will set you



GETTING FIT

DANIEL DUXFIELD



on the right path to better health.

The key aspect is accountability. With a trainer that you've booked and paid for, you've made a time and financial commitment, and better yet invested in improving your health and fitness. You know you have someone waiting for you at the appointed time and place.

A good trainer will help you get fitter and stronger. They will make you do the hard work, but they've already done the mental work of looking at what you can do and deciding what exercises you should do based on your capabilities.

So what's the take-away here?

If you know that you're going to struggle with motivation, or knowing what to do, when to do it and especially how to do it, then you need to get professional help. You should seek the help of a trainer like myself to hold you to account, to motivate you and see that you reach your goal.

■ Daniel is an exercise professional who operates DuxFit Functional Fitness from a private Ōtaki studio. Contact 022 1099 442 or danielduxfield@gmail.com and see [www.facebook.com/duxfitfunctionalfitness/](http://www.facebook.com/duxfitfunctionalfitness/)

### HELPLINES AND LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

**It's OK to seek help. Never hesitate if you are worried about yourself or someone else.**

If someone has attempted suicide or you're worried about their immediate safety:

- Call your local mental health crisis assessment team 0800 745 477 or take them to the emergency dept (ED) of your nearest hospital
- If they are in immediate physical danger to themselves or others, call 111
- Stay with them until support arrives
- Remove any obvious means of suicide they might use (eg ropes, pills, guns, car keys, knives)
- Try to stay calm, take some deep breaths
- Let them know you care
- Keep them talking: listen and ask questions without judging
- Make sure you are safe.

For more information, talk to your local doctor, medical centre, hauora, community mental health team, school counsellor or counselling service. If you don't get the help you need, keep trying.

**Services offering support & information:**

- Lifeline 0800 543 354 (0800 LIFELINE)
- Samaritans 0800 726 666 - for confidential support for anyone who is lonely or in emotional distress
- Depression Helpline 0800 111 757 or free text 4202 - to talk to a trained counsellor about how you are feeling or to ask any questions
- Healthline 0800 611 116 - for advice from trained registered nurses
- [www.depression.org.nz](http://www.depression.org.nz)

**For children and young people**

- Youthline 0800 376 633, free text 234, email [talk@youthline.co.nz](mailto:talk@youthline.co.nz) or webchat at [youthline.co.nz](http://youthline.co.nz) (webchat avail 7-11pm) – for young people and their parents, whānau and friends
- What's Up 0800 942 8787 (0800 WHATSUP) or webchat at [whatsup.co.nz](http://whatsup.co.nz) from 5-10pm for ages 5-18.
- Kidsline 0800 543 754 (0800 KIDSLINE) – up to 18 yrs.

**More options: [www.mentalhealth.org.nz](http://www.mentalhealth.org.nz)**

# HĪTŌRIA/History

Global warming

## Volcanoes play active role in earth-building

Local historian REX KERR continues the story of Ōtaki's history. This is episode 7, part b.

**S**itting as New Zealand does on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", volcanoes play an active role in the earth-building process.

Although the nearest volcanoes are more than 100 kilometres away, they can have an indirect effect on both the landscape and the climate of Ōtaki.

The volcanoes of the central North Island are classified as active and dangerous, as recently witnessed by the Whakaari/White Island eruption on December 9, 2019.

In historic times, in AD180, Taupō produced one of the most violent eruptions ever known, throwing great plumes of toxic ash and smoke many kilometres into the atmosphere.

It cooled the climate, destroyed vegetation over large areas and caused destructive pyroclastic flows covering hundreds of kilometres with ash to a great depth.

While initially highly destructive, the soils derived from volcanic ash are also very fertile. The ash laid down by the Taupō eruptions has been eroded by the rivers draining the central region, to be laid down on their flood plains, washed out to sea and deposited on the local beaches.

This has built the shoreline out and up, providing surplus sand to be blown inland to form local sand hills, and filling in swamps and lagoons, and in other places forming lakes by blocking off small streams.

In this respect, the indirect impact of volcanic

eruptions has been constructive rather than destructive. Volcanic soils are among the most fertile in the world, hence the reason for farmers living on the slopes of often active volcanoes in many parts of the world. Even small eruptions that emit pumice and other debris can eventually have an impact on landscapes further afield.

Research has revealed that massive eruptions anywhere in the world can have a dramatic impact on climate.

One of the most colossal eruptions known in historic times – Mt Samalas on Lombok in Indonesia in AD1257 – threw out 40 cubic kilometres of tephra 40km into the atmosphere. The ash cloud blocked out the Sun's rays and the sulphur dioxide gas changed into sulfuric acid particles, which then reflected the Sun's rays.

Particles from this eruption that have been found from the Arctic to Antarctic regions, are believed to have caused the onset of the "Little Ice Age".

This eruption, followed by three others in 1268, 1275 and 1284, heightened the impact. A further series of worldwide eruptions, which included Okataina (Rotorua), and Tambora in 1815 and Krakatoa in 1883 in Indonesia, sustained the cooling climate until about 1885 when temperatures started to rise again.

In 1816, the year after the Tambora eruption, it was known as "The Year without Summer" as the atmosphere was blanketed in an ash cloud.



DESTINATION OTAKI

REX KERR



Mount Ruapehu is the largest active volcano in New Zealand, with its most recent significant eruption in September 2007.

It is interesting to note that authorities compare the Samalas eruption with the AD180 Taupo ultraplinian eruption identified as the most intense historic eruption.

During this cold period New Zealand's Franz Joseph and Mueller glaciers reached their maximum extent. Snow would have covered the Tararua Ranges and its lower slopes for most of the year, making them a formidable barrier for travellers to cross.

■ References

- Pyle, D M. "Sizes of volcanic eruptions." Encyclopaedia of Volcanoes. Editors, Sigurdsson H, Houghton B, Rymer H, Stix J, McNutt S (Academic. San Diego), 2000. pp 262-269. Google Scholar.
- Source of the great AD1257 mystery eruption unveiled, Samalas volcano, Rinjini Volcanic Complex, Indonesia. <https://www.otg/content/110/42/16742>
- Little Ice Age Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little\\_Ice\\_Age](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Ice_Age)

Next: Episode 8, A Summary, Where to Next?

## OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS: Ōtaki School, Primer 2, 1956



ŌTAKI SCHOOL, Primer 2, 1956. A few gaps to fill with this one. let us know who is in this photo and we'll update in the February issue. Back row from left: unknown which is Steven Foster, David Edwards (dec), Joe Chung, Alec Yung. Middle row: ?, ?, John Cooper, all unknown the rest of the row. Front row: unknown.

## LAST MONTH'S PHOTO



WAITOHU SCHOOL, Room 2, 1966.

- Back row from left: David Lumley, Fraser Carson, Ross Johns, Max Sturt, Martin Pettifer, Gary Traveller, Barry Dittmer.  
 Third row: Teacher unknown, unknown, Colin Cudby, Mark Taylor, John Ashley, Shane Preston, Teddy Preston, Hugh Ross-Taylor.  
 Second row: Jeanette Broad, Jane Pettifer, Desire Sturt, Heather Cudby, Eleanor Kearton, Susan Lumley, Pauline Bennett, Lynne McGregor.  
 Second row: Graham Moffatt, Rodney Ashworth, Ralph Edwards, Larry Morgan, Linda Fairley, Stephanie Taylor, Sandra Dorne, Pauline Mudge.  
 Seated front: Wayne Hodgetts, Wayne ??, John McCall.

If you have any school photos you'd like to share, please let us know. If you know anyone in this photo who's not identified, or we've not identified correctly, email [debbi@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:debbi@idmedia.co.nz) The photo is also at [otakitoday.com](http://otakitoday.com)

To list your group, or update contact details, email [debbi@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:debbi@idmedia.co.nz)



## PICNIC FOR NEW ARTS CENTRE

**A Loll in the Lavender picnic on Sunday, February 7, is raising funds for a new multi-use art centre at the site of renowned potter Mirek Smíšek's restored kilns.**

The event will be at Lavender Creek Farm in Settlement Road, Te Horo (above) from 2-7pm. Families are encouraged to bring a picnic and a blanket to "loll in the lavender", where they can enjoy music entertainment by blues, jazz and originals bands Mana Blues, and The Others.

All proceeds will go towards the Mirek Smíšek Arts Centre. Entry is \$20 per person. It's free for accompanied children aged under 16.

Meanwhile, there has been progress at the art centre site. Mirek's two rare beehive kilns at Te Horo have moved – only a matter of metres – and reconstructed brick-by-brick out of the way of the new expressway.

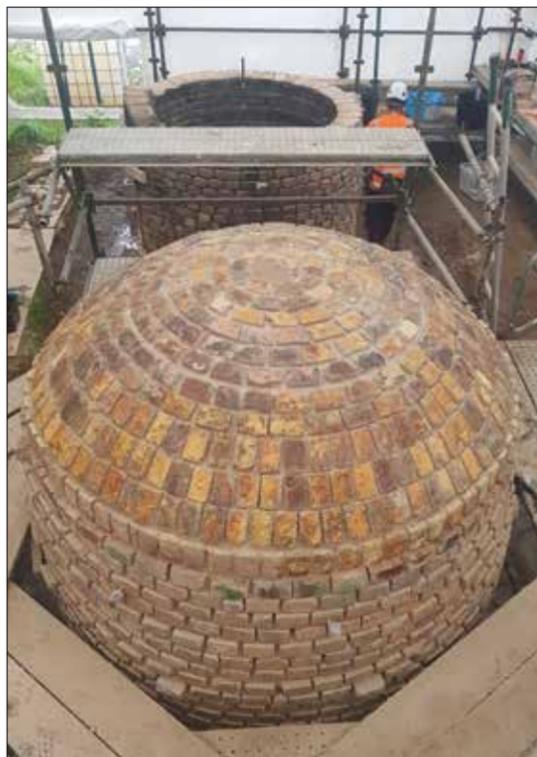
Their reconstruction has been a work of precision.

The rebuild team of potter Duncan Shearer and Rick and Jamie Mead of The Brothers Mead Block and Brick Laying have pieced the kilns back together using the original bricks wherever possible.

Some of the damaged bricks have even been glued back together for reuse.

The kilns (at right) are believed to be unique in New Zealand and will be a central feature of the new arts centre.

For booking at Loll in the Lavender or for more information, email Susi at [lavendercreeksusi@gmail.com](mailto:lavendercreeksusi@gmail.com)



### CHURCHES

**Rangiātea** 33 Te Rauparaha St, ŌTAKI • 364 6838  
*Sunday Eucharist: 9am • Church viewing hours, school terms: Mon-Fri 9.30am- 1.30pm*

**St Mary's Pukekarakā** 4 Convent Rd, ŌTAKI Fr Alan Robert 364 8543 or 021 0822 8926. *Sunday mass: 10am. Miha Māori Mass, first Sunday.* For other masses: [otakiandlevincatholicparish.nz](http://otakiandlevincatholicparish.nz).

**Anglican Methodist Parish of Ōtaki** St Margaret's, Te Horo. All Saints', Ōtaki. St Andrew's, Manakau. Co-Ministers: Jessica Falconer 021 778 345. Rev Simon Falconer, 021 857 744 email: [ministers@otakianglican.nz](mailto:ministers@otakianglican.nz) *Services: 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, All Saints', Te Rauparaha St, Ōtaki, at 9.30am. 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, St Margaret's, School Rd, Te Horo, at 9.30am. 5th Sunday to be advised.*

**Ōtaki Baptist** cnr SH1 & Te Manuao Rd, ŌTAKI 364 8540 or 027 672 7865 [otakibaptist.weebly.com](http://otakibaptist.weebly.com)  
• *Sunday service: 10am*

**The Hub** 157 Tasman Rd, ŌTAKI • Leader Richard Brons 364-6911 • [www.actchurches.com/church-directory/horowhenua/hub-church/](http://www.actchurches.com/church-directory/horowhenua/hub-church/) • *Sunday service and Big Wednesday service: 10.15am*

**Ōtaki Presbyterian** 249 Mill Rd, ŌTAKI • Rev Peter Jackson 364 8759 or 021 207 9455 • [www.otakiwaikanaechurch.nz](http://www.otakiwaikanaechurch.nz)  
*Sunday service: 11am*

### MEDICAL

**Ōtaki Medical Centre** 2 Aotaki St, Ōtaki 06 364 8555 • Monday-Friday: 8.15am-5pm • Saturday: 9am-noon. After hours. **Emergencies:** 111

**Team Medical**, Paraparaumu: AH: 04 297 3000 Coastlands Shopping Mall. 8am-10pm every day.

**Palmerston North Hospital** emergencies, 50 Ruahine St, Palmerston North • 06 356 9169  
**Healthline for free 24-hour health advice** 0800 611 116

**St John Health Shuttle 0800 589 630**

**P-pull walk-in** Drug advice and support, Birthright Centre, every 2nd Thursday 6-8pm.

### COMMUNITY

**ŌTAKI POLICE** 06 364 7366, cnr Iti and Matene Streets, Ōtaki.

**CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU ŌTAKI** 06 364 8664, 0800 367 222. 65a Main St, Ōtaki. [otaki@cab.org.nz](mailto:otaki@cab.org.nz)

**AROHAUI HOSPICE SHOP** 11 Main St, Ōtaki. 06 929 6603

**BIRTHRIGHT OTAKI OPPORTUNITY SHOP** 23 Matene St, Ōtaki. 06 364 5524

**COBWEBS OPPORTUNITY SHOP TRUST** Main St.

**OCEAN VIEW RESIDENTIAL CARE** Marine Parade, 06 364 7399

### COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

- AMICUS CLUB OF ŌTAKI 364 6464
- COBBLERS LUNCH CLUB Thursdays 11.15am-1.30pm Gertrude Atmore Lounge. Free soup.
- FOREST & BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY Joan Leckie 368 1277
- FRIENDS OF THE ŌTAKI RIVER Trevor Wylie 364 8918
- FRIENDS OF THE ŌTAKI ROTUNDA Di Buchan 364 0180/027 683 0213
- GENEALOGY SOCIETY Len Nicholls 364 7638
- KĀPITI COAST GREY POWER June Simpson 021 109 2583
- KĀPITI HOROWHENUA VEGANS: Alastair 364 3392 Eric 367 2512
- KEEP ŌTAKI BEAUTIFUL Margaret Bayston/Lloyd Chapman
- LIONS CLUB OF ŌTAKI Phil Shaw 027 259 1636
- MORRIS CAR CLUB Chris Torr 323 7753
- ŌTAKI BRIDGE CLUB Tim Horner 364-5240
- ŌTAKI COMMUNITY PATROL Errol Maffey 027 230 8836
- ŌTAKI & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS Vaevae 027 447 7864
- ŌTAKI FLORAL ART & GARDEN CLUB Macha Miller 364 6605
- ŌTAKI FOODBANK 43 Main St, Lucy Tahere 364 0051
- ŌTAKI HERITAGE BANK MUSEUM TRUST 364 6886
- ŌTAKI HISTORICAL SOCIETY Sarah Maclean 364 2497
- ŌTAKI MENZSHED 022 406 9439 [OtakiMenzShed@outlook.com](mailto:OtakiMenzShed@outlook.com)
- ŌTAKI PLAYERS SOCIETY Roger Thorpe 364 8848 or 021 259 2683
- ŌTAKI POTTERY CLUB Rod Graham 027 445 7545
- ŌTAKI PROMOTIONS GROUP Cam Butler 021 703095
- ŌTAKI AND DISTRICT RSA, 9 Raukawa St 364 6221
- ŌTAKI SPINNERS & KNITTERS' GROUP, Barbara Austin 364 8381
- ŌTAKI WOMEN'S NETWORK GROUP Carol Ward 027 235 6151
- ŌTAKI WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB/SUNDAY MARKETS Kerrie Fox 027 340 0305
- ŌTAKI WOMEN'S INSTITUTE Rema Clark [remaclark@xtra.co.nz](mailto:remaclark@xtra.co.nz)
- RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE Jamie 027 444 9995/Drew 021 288 7021
- ROTARY CLUB OF OTAKI Michael Fagg 021 294 3039
- TIMEBANK Suzanne Fahey 021 1275 074
- TOASTMASTERS OF WAIKANAE Graham 04 905 6236
- TRANSITION TOWN OTAKI Jamie Bull 364 0550
- WAITOHU STREAM CARE GROUP Lyndsay Knowles 364 6283

### CHILDREN

- ŌTAKI TOY LIBRARY 027 621 8855 Saturday 10.30am-noon Memorial Hall, Main St.
- KIDZOWN OSCAR 0800 543 9696
- LITTLE GIGGLERS PLAYGROUP Baptist Church Hall, Te Manuao Rd. 10am-12noon Friday each fortnight. Denise 027 276 0983
- MAINLY MUSIC Hadfield Hall, Te Rauparaha St. 021 189 6510
- ŌTAKI KINDERGARTEN 68a Waerenga Rd. 364 8553.
- ŌTAKI MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL Haruātai Park, Roselle 364 7500.
- ŌTAKI PLAYCENTRE Mill Rd. 364 5787. Mon, Tue, Thu 9.30am-noon
- ŌTAKI PLAYGROUP [otakiplaygroup@hotmail.com](mailto:otakiplaygroup@hotmail.com)
- ŌTAKI SCOUTS, CUBS AND KEAS Brent Bythell 364 8949.
- PLUNKET MANAKAU PLAYGROUP Honi Taipua St, T & Th 9.30am-noon.
- SKIDS ŌTAKI out of school care, St Peter Chanel School. Sonia: 027 739 1986.
- TE KŌHANGA REO O TE KĀKANO O TE KURA Te Rauparaha St, 06 364 5599
- TE KŌHANGA REO O RAUKAWA 5 Convent Rd, 06 364 5364

### SPORTS CLUBS

- EASY-CISE/WALKING GROUP (BODY & SOUL) Joseph 364 6191
- EQUESTRIAN HORSE CLUB 364 6181: Horse Trekking club Debbie 364 6571; Ōtaki Pony Club Paul Pettengell 364 5781
- GAZBOS GOLDEN OLDIES Doug Garrity 364 5886
- HAWAIKINUI TUA RUA KI ŌTAKI (waka ama) DeNeen Baker-Underhill 027 404 4697
- ŌTAKI ATHLETIC CLUB Kerry Bevan 027 405 6635
- ŌTAKI BOATING CLUB Trevor Hosking 021 642 766
- ŌTAKI BOWLING CLUB Paul Selby 927 9015
- ŌTAKI CANOE CLUB Jane Bertelsen 364 5302
- ŌTAKI DANCE GROUP Barbara Francis 364 7383
- ŌTAKI GOLF CLUB 364 8260
- ŌTAKI GYMNASTICS CLUB Nancy 027 778 6902
- ŌTAKI INDOOR BOWLING Jane Selby-Paterson 927 9015
- ŌTAKI MASTERS SWIMMING CLUB Sonia Coom 04 292 7676
- ŌTAKI PETANQUE CLUB Val Clarke 364 5213
- ŌTAKI RAILWAY BOWLING CLUB Maureen Beaver 364 0640
- ŌTAKI SPORTS CLUB: TENNIS, SQUASH & SOCCER Hannah 027 327 1179
- ŌTAKI SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB Kirsty Doyle 021 102 0058
- RĀHUI FOOTBALL AND SPORTS CLUB Slade Sturmey 021 191 4780. Rahui Netball Kylie Gardner 0275 490 985. Junior Rugby Megan Qaranivalu 022 165 7649
- TAE KWON DO Jim Babbington 027 530 0443
- TAI CHI Gillian Sutherland 04 904 8190
- WHITI TE RA LEAGUE CLUB Kelly Anne Ngatai 027 256 7391
- WILD GOOSE QIGONG, CHEN STYLE TAIJIQUAN (TAI CHI) & CHUN YUEN (SHAOLIN) QUAN. Sifu Cynthia Shaw 021 613 081.

# TAMARIKI

## ŌT KIDS' NEWS



### Time's 'Kid of the Year' named

A teenage scientist and inventor, Gitanjali Rao (above), aged 15, has been named *Time* magazine's first-ever Kid of the Year. Gitanjali has invented technologies including a device that can identify lead in drinking water, and an app that detects cyberbullying. She was chosen from more than 5000 nominees in the USA for the landmark title.

"My goal has changed from creating my own devices to solve the world's problems, but inspiring others to do the same as well. If I can do it, you can do it, and anyone can do it," she said.



Photo: Steve Ashton

### Godwit breaks world record

A bar-tailed godwit flew more than 12,000km from Alaska to Auckland in just 11 days, breaking a world record. A satellite recorded the flight of 12,854km, estimating the total flight time at 224 hours. The previous longest recorded non-stop flight by a bird, of 11,680km, was recorded in 2007. The bar-tailed godwit set off on September 16 and flew at speeds of up to 90km/h. The male bird, known as 4BBRW, is named from the blue, red and white rings fitted on its legs. It also had a satellite tag harnessed on its lower back to allow scientists to track its progress. It was one of four birds to be tracked from the Alaskan mudflats where they had been feeding on clams and worms for two months.

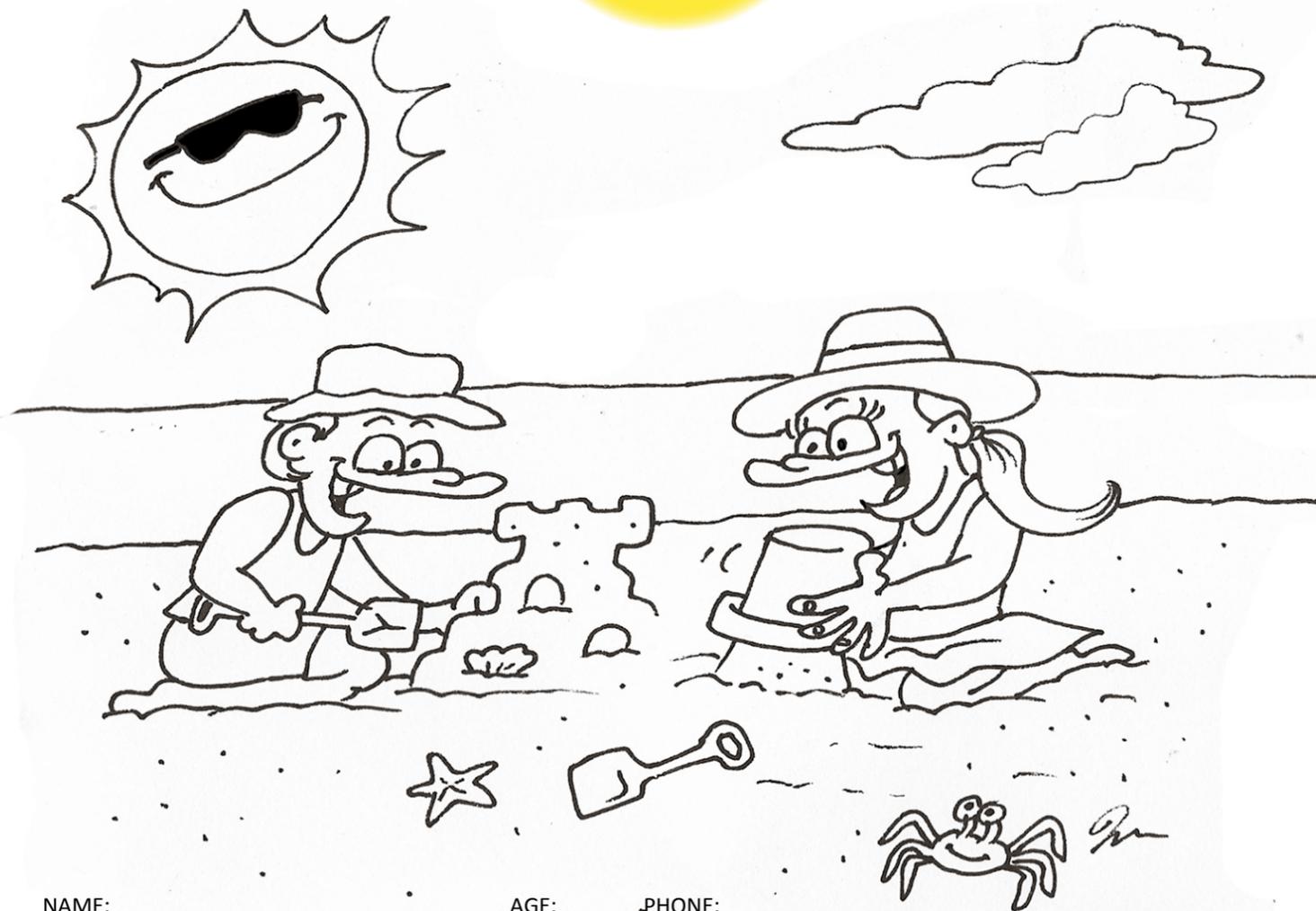
### Baby Shark breaks the internet!

Children's song *Baby Shark* has become the most viewed YouTube video ever, reaching 7.04 billion views. It is a cute and catchy song recorded by South Korean company Pinkfong, four years ago.

### ANSWERS TO KYUSS' CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. Santa Claus
2. Pine trees
3. Tinsel
4. Jingle Bells
5. An angel
6. Carrots and oats
7. False, it was Germany
8. Rudolph
9. Candy cane
10. Six.

## COLOURING COMPETITION



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Drop a copy of your coloured picture into Ōtaki Today's box at Riverstone Café to win a \$20 book voucher or an *Animals in Vehicles* book by Feb 7.

## KYUSS'



### FRUIT AND VEGETABLE WORD SEARCH

- |            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| Apple      | Pineapple |
| Pear       | Zucchini  |
| Banana     | Radish    |
| Orange     | Carrot    |
| Watermelon | Lemon     |

Look down, sideways, diagonally and backwards!

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



Nau mai, haere mai, welcome to

## ŌTAKI MONTESSORI PRE-SCHOOL

Haruatai Park, 200 Mill Rd, Ōtaki. 06 364 7500 • [www.otakimontessori.co.nz](http://www.otakimontessori.co.nz)

Kia ora 2021 . . .

Welcome to a new year at your community-based Montessori preschool.

Our classrooms are open for Term 1, 2021 from Monday 18th January. We welcome enquires and enrolments and are happy to have visitors. Give Roselle a ring in the office on 06 364 7500 or pop in to see her.

There will be a few changes in the classrooms this term. The younger children will have easier access to the garden during the day, and the older children will concentrate their learning in the classroom, the developing play area and Haruatai Park, where they can move and explore as they learn.



The teachings of Maria Montessori underpin our programme and we feel this sits well with Te Whaariki, the New Zealand Early Childhood curriculum.

"The goal of early childhood should be to activate the child's own natural desire to learn." – Maria Montessori.

We welcome you into our community of learners.

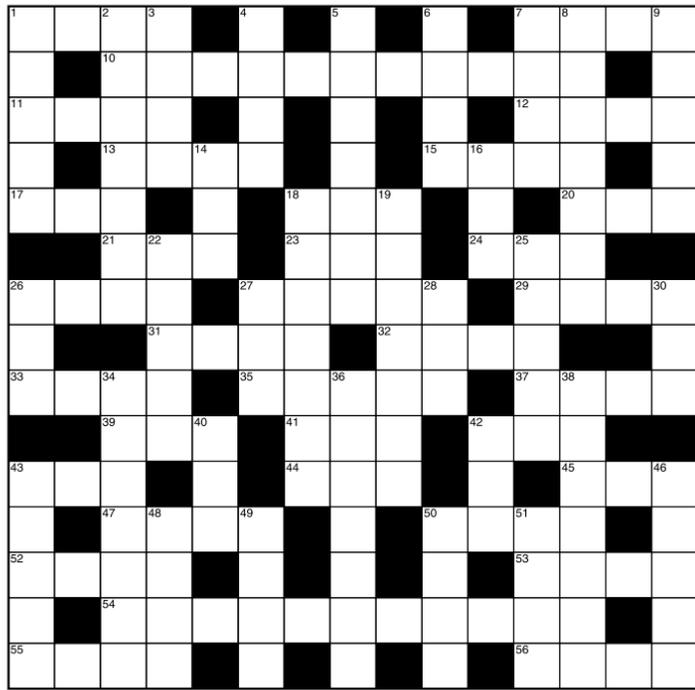
We offer morning sessions from 9am–12pm (a great option for the little ones) or a full day session from 9am–2.30pm.

Get in touch on 06 364 7500 or email us at [om\\_admin@otakimontessori.co.nz](mailto:om_admin@otakimontessori.co.nz) to arrange a visit.

**Ōtaki Montessori offers a unique choice of preschool education in Ōtaki.**

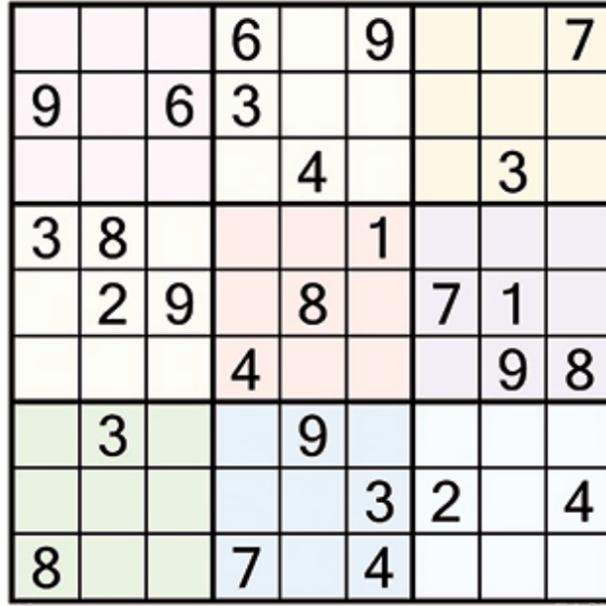


CROSSWORD #5463 Crossword solution page 2



SUDOKU PUZZLES www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

Use logic and process of elimination to fill in the blank cells using the numbers 1 through 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Puzzle solution page 2. EASY #13



QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Hogmonay. 2. Crispbread. 3. Coins. 4. Yellow. 5. Ireland. 6. Siberia. 7. 108. 8. Canada. 9. Italy. 10. Babylonians. 11. True. 12. Russia. 13. True. 14. 153 BC.

Ōtaki River entrance tides

January 13 – February 12

[metservice.com/marine-surf/tides/otaki-river-entrance](http://metservice.com/marine-surf/tides/otaki-river-entrance)

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

	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
WED 13 JAN	-	04:13	10:26	16:41	22:49
THU 14 JAN	-	05:00	11:11	17:27	23:35
FRI 15 JAN	-	05:43	11:54	18:11	-
SAT 16 JAN	00:18	06:25	12:35	18:53	-
SUN 17 JAN	00:59	07:05	13:14	19:34	-
MON 18 JAN	01:39	07:45	13:55	20:15	-
TUE 19 JAN	02:19	08:26	14:37	20:58	-
WED 20 JAN	03:03	09:11	15:22	21:43	-
THU 21 JAN	03:51	10:03	16:14	22:34	-
FRI 22 JAN	04:48	11:03	17:11	23:33	-
SAT 23 JAN	05:54	12:11	18:14	-	-
SUN 24 JAN	-	00:39	07:04	13:18	19:16
MON 25 JAN	-	01:43	08:05	14:15	20:14
TUE 26 JAN	-	02:37	08:55	15:04	21:05
WED 27 JAN	-	03:23	09:38	15:47	21:50
THU 28 JAN	-	04:05	10:17	16:28	22:32
FRI 29 JAN	-	04:44	10:55	-	-
SAT 30 JAN	-	05:23	11:33	17:49	23:53
SUN 31 JAN	-	06:02	12:12	18:30	-
MON 01 FEB	00:34	06:43	12:54	19:13	-
TUE 02 FEB	01:17	07:26	13:38	19:59	-
WED 03 FEB	02:02	08:13	14:26	20:47	-
THU 04 FEB	02:52	09:05	15:19	21:40	-
FRI 05 FEB	03:49	10:06	16:20	22:41	-
SAT 06 FEB	04:55	11:17	17:29	23:51	-
SUN 07 FEB	06:12	12:35	18:44	-	-
MON 08 FEB	-	01:06	07:30	13:48	19:58
TUE 09 FEB	-	02:15	08:36	14:50	21:01
WED 10 FEB	-	03:13	09:30	15:43	21:53
THU 11 FEB	-	04:02	10:15	16:29	22:39
FRI 12 FEB	-	04:45	10:56	17:11	23:20



NEW YEAR'S QUIZ (answers right)

1. What is Scotland's famous New Year tradition called?
2. What can you expect friends and family to smash against your door on New Year's Eve in Denmark?
3. What is traditionally tossed into rivers at New Year in Romania?
4. Wearing what colour underwear at New Year in Colombia will assure you wealth and good fortune in the coming year?
5. In which country will banging doors and walls with bread at New Year drive out bad luck from the house?
6. Where do people jump into frozen lakes with a tree trunk at New Year to bring good luck?
7. Buddhist temples ring a bell at midnight. How many times does it ring? / 42 / 108 / or 137
8. Where would eating a bowl of black-eyed pea soup at New Year guarantee you good fortune?
9. Where would eating pig's trotters and lentils be considered a good omen for the coming year?
10. Which ancient civilisation is thought to have begun the tradition of New Year's resolutions some 4000 years ago?
11. True or False? In Greece it is customary to smash a pomegranate on doors to release good fortune for the coming year.
12. Where might you write down your wish for the New Year on a piece of paper, burn it and then drink the ashes in a glass of Champagne?
13. True or False? In the Czech Republic you might cut an apple in half at New Year to check the pattern of the core and your luck for the coming year.
14. When was the New Year first celebrated on 1 January? 700 BC / 153 BC / AD 70 / or AD 567

CLASSIFIEDS

**THE ELM COURT BODY CORPORATE,** Ian Peter Way, Ōtaki is seeking applicants for an "odd-job" person to carry out work in maintaining our complex on an "as and when" basis. This includes, weeding the communal garden, spraying lawns with weed killer and fertilizer, repairing lawns with top soil and lawn seed, fencing repairs, etc. The applicant will need to provide an invoice for work done. Contact Adrien Cubitt on 021 2060 799.

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DEATHS

**CRESWELL,** Alison Lorraine. Of Ōtaki. Passed away peacefully on Friday, December 18, 2020. Dearly loved wife of Brian. Much loved mother of Brent and Caroline, Shelley and Matt, and Mark. Adored Nan of Nathan, Adam, Reece, Hayley, Callum, Kirsty-Ann and Liam. All messages to the Creswell family, C/O 547 Queen St East, Levin 5510. In accordance with Alison's wishes a private service and cremation has been held. – IC Mark Ltd

**EDWARDS,** Johnella Kia Kaha. Passed away peacefully, surrounded by her whanau at Millvale House, Levin on January 3, 2021, aged 66 years. A very loved daughter of the late Carl Hongi Edwards and Matepahi Kia Kaha Edwards. Eldest sister to Stanley (dec), Carol, Meihana and Hinerangi. A very special aunty to all her nieces and nephews. Thank you to the staff at Millvale House for the care you gave to Johnella. Moe mai ra Aunty, rest in the arms of your loving parents.

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We have two positions that have become available in our Service Deli/Seafood Department. We have one full time position of 40 hours per week and one part time position of 24 hours per week and both roles include weekend work.

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- Have a passion for food.
- Great customer service skills.
- Self motivated and able to multi task and work fast.
- Both roles involve weekend work.
- Have an understanding of food safety, health and safety.

To apply please send a CV to:

[sarah.beech-pooley@nw.co.nz](mailto:sarah.beech-pooley@nw.co.nz) or drop a CV and expression of interest into the Service Desk in store with the position you are interested in.

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# RUNARUNA/Leisure

## Water-loving Kiwis urged to stay safe

After a difficult year, New Zealanders have been keen to hit the beaches, lakes and rivers this holiday season – but in the first week of January, four people have drowned.

The predicted numbers of people flocking to the water during the rest of the summer has water safety advocates on edge.

“While we want everyone to enjoy the summer break we need everyone to take some personal responsibility for their safety this summer,” says Water Safety New Zealand spokesperson Sheridan Bruce.

“Already we have had four drowning fatalities this year, so we want everyone to think carefully about water safety,” says Bruce.

The current toll of 65 for 2020 was down on 75 for 2019, which was expected due to the Covid-19 lockdown at the end of last summer.

“Even though the toll is down it is still too many lives needlessly lost, and this year has already shown the need to take care. Families and communities are left devastated and it doesn’t have to be this way.”

Frontline rescue services Surf Life Saving NZ – including the Ōtaki Surf Life Saving Club – and Coastguard NZ have been bracing themselves for a busy summer, but everyone can play a part by thinking about water safety.

“People just need to remember some key water safety rules,” Sheridan says.

- Be prepared – check the weather, your gear and the water conditions.
- Never go into, on or near the water alone – who will help you if something goes wrong?



Surf life guards are ready for a busy summer, but everyone should think about their safety around water, says Water Safety NZ.

Photo supplied

- Look after yourself and others – constant active adult supervision of babies and toddlers at all times around water, not older children, but designated adults.
- Know the risks and know your limits.
- Check pool gates and latches are in good working order.
- Empty paddling pools after use.
- Obey warning signage, get local knowledge and check the forecast.
- If in doubt, don’t go out.
- Avoid drugs and alcohol around water.

**For boats, diving and fishing:**

- Wear a lifejacket when rock and net fishing – expect the unexpected.

- Boaters and paddlers, as well as a lifejacket need two forms of waterproof communication.
- Divers and snorkelers – take a buddy, follow best practice, check the forecast and your equipment and stay within your limits.

**At rivers and beaches:**

- Rivers have claimed more lives than beaches since records began.
- Don’t swim near dams or waterfalls. Check for hidden objects.
- Stay clear of rivers after heavy rain.
- Swim between the flags at a patrolled beach.
- Remember the three Rs if caught in a rip – relax, raise, ride.

“Talk about water safety with your family and friends. New Zealanders love to play in the water but there is always risk. Everyone just needs to be aware and think for a few minutes about water safety before you head to the water. It could save your or your loved one’s life,” Sheridan says. “All it takes is one moment of carelessness, one moment of unnecessary risk taking. . . .”

“We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday period, but remember the water safety code: Be prepared, know the risks and your limits, and watch out for yourself and others.”

■ Go to [www.watersafety.org.nz](http://www.watersafety.org.nz) for more water safety information.

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