

Keeping you up to date with Opotiki District Council activities

Some Major Projects this Year

February

Sealing of Omarumutu and Pakihi roads.

March

Bay Trust Sports Pavilion Opening, Waioeka Domain.

April

Bridge St road widening, kerb and channel. Continuation of the Fun Unplugged Project.

June

Community Contribution Awards.

July

Te Kaha Water Supply extension.

August

Ohiwa Public Toilet.

October

Local Government Elections.

December

Growth Management Strategy.

Lodging resource consents for harbour development

Bumper year for Opotiki Summer Events

National media coverage of summer events has put Opotiki on the map this year and will support our efforts to progress local initiatives.

Both the Waitohi Beach Sand Sculpture Competition and the OpotikiCoast Mega Mud Slide were featured on TVNZ news providing approximately 10 minutes of prime time viewing throughout New Zealand. The highly successful Opotiki Rodeo also provided considerable national exposure in the print media.

Chief Executive Vaughan Payne says that Council has been working to increase the profile of the district for some time and plans to continue its efforts over the coming year.

"When others know who we are and where we are it becomes easier to gain support for our other initiatives whether they are community activities and events or large projects such as the harbour development project. Both television items portrayed the positive culture of Opotiki & increased awareness of our district. We are off to a great start but we need to maintain that



Mega Mud Sliders. Back: Tyla Kingi, Connor Henry. Middle: Hosanna Horsfall, Erin Horsfall, Amy-Kelly Horsfall, Dayna Henry, Brogan Connor, George Horsfall. Front: Luca Connor.

profile to sustain interest in Opotiki over the next few years."

According to Council's corporate services manager, Donna Adlam news is about extraordinary issues and events and Opotiki has many events that are unique to the area.

"You can't buy time on the news, you have to make it. Interesting things happen all the time in Opotiki. Keeping the media informed and working with them to allow them to meet their targets is important if we are to promote the district on a regional and national basis."

A meeting of community event organisers will be held on 27 February, 2007 at 6.00pm to review events and consider a joint approach to promotion.

"Anything that is quirky, has an interesting twist or strong message is of interest to the media. If people think they see a news opportunity or have an idea that could be developed we would like to know about it."

Contact Donna on (07) 315 3030



Thousands of people enjoyed Opotiki's Christmas in the Park

OpotikiCoast Fun Unplugged

Products to Promote Opotiki

A new product has been added to the range of merchandise that helps us promote our district. The OpotikiCoast Mega Mud Pack and Mega Mud T Zone and spot Treatment is now available from the Opotiki Visitor Information Centre.



Happy recipients of hard earned gains Narrissa Tamepo, Rhiley McKillop, Darcy Crosswell and Sheridan Crosswell with Council's corporate services manager Donna Adlam

Its a dirty business and they love it!

Hard and dirty work paid off for the Opotiki Youth Cultural Group who helped make the Opotiki-Coast Mega Mud Slide a success. The group prepared and submitted a business plan to provide services to the Fun Unplugged Mega Mud Slide operation and were rewarded for their hard work when they received their first payment of \$899 for two days work. "This is cool," they say. "We get to hang out at the mud slide and make

money for ourselves. It's good to see so many people having a good time and laughing."

"We discovered there is quite a bit of work in running a mud slide," says Council's corporate services manager, Donna Adlam. "Each day we need a minimum of five people to mix mud, smooth the track, tidy the site before opening and to provide briefings and advice to sliders on entry,"

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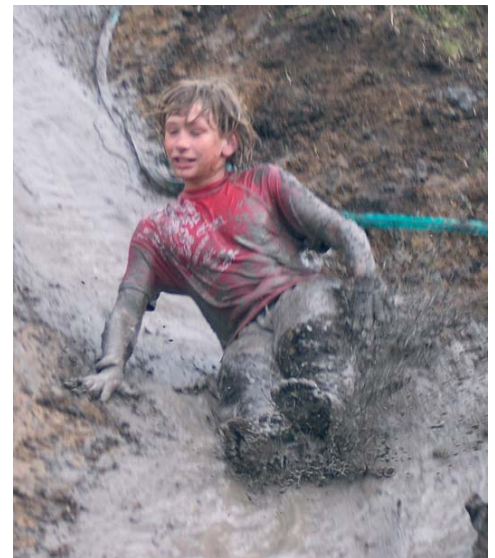
Chief Executive Vaughan Payne hands over the Council staff contributions to the Opotiki Food bank. Keita Hudson of Te Ha o te Whanau.



Delighted spectators lined Opotiki's main street to admire more than 40 floats and entries in the 2006 Opotiki Christmas Parade.



A crowd estimated to be between 3,000 and 3,500 enjoyed Opotiki's Christmas in the Park and a cool looking Santa brought special guest New Zealand Idol Matt Saunooa.



The OpotikiCoast Mega Mud Slide thrilled young and old sliders, spectators and television viewers throughout New Zealand. The odd bump and bruise did not affect the pleasure of wallowing in pools of thick, sticky mud. As one spectator commented "There's just something about mud that makes you laugh."

Councillor comment

In this column Opotiki District councillors are invited to share their views with residents. The views expressed are those of the individual councillor and not necessarily of the collective council.

Over the holiday period the national media has positively promoted Opotiki District as a fun place to visit for events and family activities. The Waiotahi Beach Sculpture competition, Mud Slide, and the Rodeo all gained prime media coverage which will build upon the hard work and commitment that community volunteers and Council staff have put into district promotion.

Council has made a conscious commitment to supporting and co-ordinating these events with the appointment of an Events Co-ordinator and by supporting the many people who have made the inaugural Fun Unplugged Festival a great success. The organisation and success of the Opotiki Holiday and Information packages was commented on by a

number of Whakatane people and it was noted that many people were passing through to visit the Opotiki district instead. Congratulations to all those who organized and participated in these holiday events and made them such a success. No doubt there will be representations made to Council to support this and other events in the next financial year.

The challenge for the District Council is to build upon this year's events and commit to further infrastructure that will enhance the district. A town to beach walkway and further development of other walkways and activities that integrated the coastal, the river, and the forest park activities would offer opportunities that would be geographically unique to the Bay of Plenty to a discerning and growing number of environmentally conscious domestic and international travellers.

As a geographically large rural council, but with a small rating base that is generally not affluent, we need quality partnerships with the community in order to prioritise and commit to putting in place some of this infrastructure.

Over the past term your Council has focused on and worked to seek efficiencies. This effort has seen our financial position improve to the extent that we are now able to self-fund several loans that have come up for renewal. This gives Council flexibility in making choices between funding both core and discretionary activities and allows us to take advantage of movements in interest rates and terms.

As we move towards the 2007 Local Body elections, Council will maintain the momentum that we have developed and the elections in October will show if the electorate shares in our vision for a more prosperous and viable district.

Doug Leeder,
Waiotahi Ward Councillor.
Phone 315 4839





The Opotiki Rodeo attracted a record crowd of around 5,000 people.

Proceeds from the event go to the Eastern Bay Hunt Club, Opotiki Lions Club and Project Hope. Following the success of this year's event the Rodeo committee will be considering the additional investment they will need to make to meet capacity next year.



There was music and dancing in the street on the last day of 2006.

The Waiotahi Drifts Beach Sculpting Competition attracted a happy crowd as did the Waiotahi Country Market, the inter camping ground tug o' war competition, Stag and Boar Fishing Competition and many other events and activities that were held in Opatiki over the summer holiday period.



Opotiki Harbour Project Update

Currently on track to lodge resource consent applications with Environment Bay of Plenty by end of 2007.

DHI consultants are currently undertaking river and coastal modelling which will lead to a robust groyne design. The environmental impacts of the groynes can then be assessed and the consent applications lodged.

Immediately prior to Xmas the Ministry of Fisheries made a final decision to grant a marine farm permit to Eastern Sea Farms Limited for a 3,800 ha farm off Opatiki. This was an important milestone in improving the economic viability of both the Harbour development and mussel farm projects.

Also prior to Xmas Council presented at a Bay of Plenty Aquaculture forum attended by the Minister of Economics, Trevor Mallard, what infrastructure was necessary to capitalise on future aquaculture efforts in the Bay of Plenty. Mayor Forbes highlighted the significant social and economic benefits to the Eastern Bay of Plenty (currently the most 'deprived' district in New Zealand) of securing the processing plant in Opatiki and apart from the harbour entrance, all the necessary infrastructure already existed (wharf, labour, water supply, trade, waste system and electricity).

Council Projects Update

Waioeka Sports Complex

The floor slab is basically complete and services installed.

Concrete tilt panels (walls) are presently being constructed and once these have been stood up it will look like progress is being made.

It is hoped to have the building ready for the start of the 2007 soccer season in March.

Te Kaha Resource Recovery Centre

Unfortunately there have been two appeals to the Environment Court over the decision.

To operate the Te Kaha RRC on Copenhagen Road at Te Kaha.

Unless there can be an agreement reached with the objectors it could be twelve to eighteen months before the case is heard.

CBD Cameras

A brief report has been received from a supply and installation firm in Auckland but this has not been definitive as to type, costing and staging.

Further investigation work will be undertaken in relation to Whakatane, Kawerau and perhaps Tauranga installation in relation to cost and any operational difficulties.

A brief will be prepared to obtain quotes for the staged work to present as part of funding applications.

Costings are still in the vicinity of \$150,000 to \$200,000 for adequate coverage and surveillance.

Roading Projects for 2007

Seal extension work for 0.9km of Omarumutu Road will commence in January 2007 and will link up with the end of the existing seal on Motu Road (Peacocks Bridge).

Pakihi Road will have a further 1.6km of seal commencing in February 2007 which will give 2.6km in total for this road.

Works Infrastructure Ltd are the successful contractors who will also be undertaking 300 metres of pavement upgrading in Bridge Street. This is from Windsor Street to Buchanan Street and will include kerb and channel and footpaths.

Other capital works to be undertaken are:

- Omaio Toilets

- Opotiki Cemetery (secondcoat seal and concrete berm etc)

- Water Reticulation Upgrade – Opatiki and Te Kaha

- Stormwater upgrading of a pumpstation and reticulation.



It's a dirty bussiness.... continued

control the top of the track, maintain the length of the track and ensure sliders were out of the mud pool before the next slider arrived. Having regular workers such as the Youth Culture Group and the Opatiki Surf Lifesaving Club makes it so much easier as they become familiar with the operation and just get on and do what needs to be done without too much instruction."

"Under the agreement the groups received the day's takings less \$120 which went towards running costs. At the outset we had no idea what this amount might be so it was a bit of a gamble for the groups but they stuck with it and managed to earn almost \$900 for their first two day's work. They have experienced running a small business and learned a little about how to present a proposal, the level of commitment and customer service required, a bit about accounting and banking, health and safety. In my opinion these young people deserve every dollar they receive and I hope they have been encouraged to stay involved in enterprise from now on."

Many other businesses promoted under the Fun Unplugged project have reported an increase in business while enquiries to the visitor information centre have increased by an estimated 80%.

Mega Mud Slide Success

Opotiki's Mega Mud Slide has provided hours of fun for people of all ages, shapes and sizes and has attracted people from all over to the district.

The idea was part of the Tourism and Promotions Committee's push to promote the district as a great place for country style, family fun.

"In preparing its strategic plan for the promotion of the district the committee identified the need to make the sort of entertainment local residents enjoy on a day to day basis available to the domestic visitor market, specifically young people and families. We can go fishing, hunting, bush tramping, surfing and river rafting at any time and tend to take these activities for granted but for people who live in cities these experiences are different and not so affordable. When they come to our district they may not have the ability to make the most of the area so we have set out to provide the equipment and guidance they need through the Fun Unplugged project which has been given great support from the Ministry of Youth Development, local businesses and individuals. The Mud Slide is just one of 28 events and 15 activities that have been promoted. They would not have been possible without the willing help of many people," says Tourism and Promotions Committee Chairman, Robbie Petersen.

The creation of the mud slide was truly a joint effort. Works Infrastructure, Waiotahi Contractors, Porter Hire and Fulton Hogan designed and excavated the track on land owned by the Moody family. Gerry Bloomfield of PML Parehaka Minerals Limited donated over \$2,000 of the slippery surface, bentonite. Waiotahi Contractors, Opotiki ITM and Council have provided transport for 7 tons of the bentonite from the Te Karaka mine and volunteers have spent hours shoveling, raking and preparing the site.

"It's definitely not an exact science," says project co-ordinator Donna Adlam. "It took three reshaping to get the track to a point where we felt we could safely manage it. We have had to learn how the track responds to weather conditions, the size and shape of users and their different styles and we now know that it is possible to control the speed and dignity of your descent by posture and staff can provide good advice to sliders, constantly adjusting the track to suit the user.

"There are a lot of different types of sliders. The range of people who have ventured onto the slide includes very small kids who start out nervous and finish up expert, young adults who push for speed and style in descent. We have had a women's group on a mystery tour put aside concerns about hair dos and broken fingernails, well groomed and fashionable young ladies and even a 67 year old lady take the plunge. They all come out looking the same - filthy and smiling! It is the most amazing atmosphere and a real pleasure, despite the hard work, to be able to make so many people happy by such a simple and inexpensive experience."

The slide raised over \$5,000 in the first two weeks of operation, most of which goes to the community groups that help with the operation.

Opotiki Events

Mega Mud Slide Finale 29th January

A day of slippery, slidey, silly fun to celebrate the closing of the Opotiki Mega Mud Slide. Pay to watch your favourite person take the plunge or enter the uphill slide or tug o' mud competition. Entry fee: \$3. Slide open 10.00am to 1.00 pm the events begin.

All proceeds from the day go to Opotiki St John.

The 108th Opotiki A & P Show 17th February 2007

The 108th Opotiki A & P Show, starts 9.00am at Memorial Park.

This great family fun day features side shows, trade exhibits, horse riding, crafts, music, competitions, animals, food, gypsies and rides.

Enjoy the atmosphere and activities at this real old fashioned community event.

If you have an interesting exhibit or activity to contribute contact Sandie Dixon (07) 315 3030 and register your interest.

The 12th Annual Opotiki Charity Concert March 16th and 17th,

The 12th Annual Opotiki Charity Concert hits the college stage on March 16th and 17th, just a few short weeks away. For 2007 we have Australia's International country star, Wayne Horsburgh, winner of numerous awards including three time winner of the Male Vocalist award. Wayne is coming direct from Branson MS, the new capital of country music in the USA. Another special Australian guest, Brian Barlow - harmonica supremo will feature along with Luke Herlihy and the effervescent Mike Cotton.

Two very worthy causes are hoping for full houses, Opotiki St John and the Opotiki Volunteer Coast Guard. Watch for more information in the local paper and listen to Radio 1XX.

Down the hill slipping and sliding
And hell it is fun mud sliding
Although the rodeo comes once a year
They show their courage by wrestling a steer
And the cowboys ride the bulls with all their might
And boy it is quite a sight
And across our white sandy beaches
And crystal blue waters is Opotiki's own volcano
White Island
And although we may not be far or wide
This is our home so we say it with pride
OPOTIKI
Is the place we all love

Sean Chapman
11 years old

Government Funding for Small Drinking-water Suppliers

The Drinking-water Assistance Programme Administered by the Ministry of Health, applications for 2006-2007 year will be received from 1 February 2007 to 31 May 2007.

The Technical Assistance Programme

The Technical Assistance Programme will identify whether capital upgrades to the system are necessary through the development and implementation of Public Health Risk Management Plans.

The Capital Assistance Programme

The aim is to provide funding to communities and drinking-water supplies to help them to purchase capital works, including equipment where this is needed, to ensure they have a supply that is safe. Participation in the Technical Assistance Programme will be a prerequisite to any application for Capital Assistance Programme funding.

Which water suppliers or communities will be eligible to apply for Capital Assistance Programme funding?

Primary criteria: Communities applying for Capital Assistance Programme funding must provide a drinking-water supply to a minimum of 25 persons for 60 days of the year or for 1,500 person/days per year. Further criteria also apply.

What can Capital Assistance Programme funding applications be made for?

Capital works/ equipment/ training / sampling or monitoring / fees of professional advisors / operational expenditure for a defined transitional period.

How much funding can each eligible supply receive?

Funding of up to 95% is available provided criteria are met.

Before a water supply or community or local authority can apply for Capital Assistance Programme funding, it must demonstrate that it has participated in the Technical Assistance Programme. This is a prerequisite.

For further information please contact:

Opotiki District Council : Raelyn Rika on (07) 3153030 ext 731

Toi Te Ora Public Health : Gavin Smith on (07) 3060785

Or visit www.moh.govt.nz/water

A joint application by Opotiki District Council and Te Runanga o Te Whanau will be submitted for the reticulation of Maungaroa. Public meetings regarding the Maungaroa Water Project will be held in Te Kaha, dates and times unavailable at printing. Any queries please contact the office on (07) 3153030 ext 731.



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