

Tirohanga section of the Mōtū Trails opens



A spectacular day dawned for the opening of the new Tirohanga Bluff section of the Mōtū Trail in June.

After the karakia and blessing of the trail and pou, the first visitors walked or rode the new section of the track, an incredible piece of coastal riding which holds great cultural significance and environmental value. After the opening, the Project Crimson Trust held a community planting day, followed by a midday BBQ for the hard workers.



Making savings

– John Forbes, Ōpōtiki Mayor



It is always great to get feedback during the Annual Plan process and one piece of feedback in particular caught my eye this year.

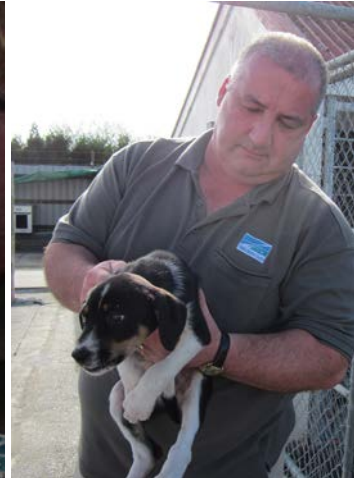
One submitter thought Council should talk more about what it does to save money, as well as spend it. I thought it was a good point, so I'll list just a few initiatives.

We use **grant funding** where possible. The Mōtū Trails, the Memorial Park Pavilion, Magpie Park and the harbour redevelopment have all been assisted by grants. In the future we hope the Ōpōtiki Technology and Research Centre will also benefit from this approach. It is worth remembering though, that there is often a cost involved in creating a successful application!

We use **shared services or resources** to build economies of scale. For example, Ōpōtiki District Council built the i-SITE building with a loan, which is being repaid by rent income from both the Department of Conservation and Regional Council. We also **share staff and resources** like IT and HR with the other councils in the area so that we have access to specialist local government skills at an affordable rate.

Spending money on asset research and data on our assets means we can save money by prioritising our future expenditure where it is most needed – the sewerage project is an example of this.

On a per ratepayer basis, we are one of the lowest spending councils in NZ and have not increased total staff numbers (or consultancy budgets) over the past ten years. Our councillors even pay for their own lunches on Council meeting days!



A day in the life of an animal control officer

Meet Jeanette and Willie, Council's animal control officers. They have a challenging job, keeping roaming dogs under control and working with animal owners. But they work hard to help ensure pets are well looked after and registered.

8am – A beautiful litter of six one-month-old Shar-Pei-cross puppies were left in the Drop Box overnight. Arrange housing at the pound, de-worming, etc.

9am – Street patrol. Wandering dog spotted. Spend time catching and putting in truck. Not microchipped, so off to the pound.

11am – Patrol spots an untethered horse. Find rope that horse was tethered to. Retether horse. Call owner and let them know.

1pm – Desk work. Call owners whose dogs have been picked up and need to be collected from the pound. They will be charged a \$45 impound fee and \$10 a day for food.

2pm – Pop into the pound to take photos of the new puppies so that we can re-home them.

3pm – Investigate reports of noisy and roaming dogs in a residential street. Dog owners found and infringement notices issued.

5pm – Desk work. Complete the day's paperwork, then home. But on-call duties continue.....

It is a great job, but poor dog ownership is a constant frustration. Bites, scratches and angry animals (and occasionally equally angry owners) are an unfortunate but regular part of our jobs. Please consider your animals, give them plenty of supervised exercise. Get them registered, microchipped and de-sexed. Make sure your dogs aren't roaming! Responsible owners are great, but the few irresponsible owners cause headaches and additional costs for all dog owners.

Horse owners – many of the same rules apply to you as well!

If you own an animal, they are your responsibility. Please take care of all your animals.

From Jeanette and Willie



Dog regos due

Owners of dogs that are unregistered after August 4th, 2014 will have a penalty fee added to the cost of registration.

After that date, owners will receive infringement notices and, if dogs are seized, impound fees will be added to this cost. It is a legal requirement to register all dogs each year and new dogs must be microchipped.

This year's dog registration costs are cheaper than previously – \$55 for neutered dogs and \$110 for complete dogs. Working dogs must also be registered at a cost of \$40.

Details on dog registration can be found on the Council website
www.odc.govt.nz.



Homes for dogs WANTED!

Since March, and the SPCA's relocation from the pound, Council has re-housed 16 dogs and fostered a further two.

Council wants to see dogs re-homed to caring, responsible owners. Dogs are advertised for adoption through word of mouth, the Council's Facebook page and website.

Find out more at:
www.odc.govt.nz and
 [Opotiki District Council](https://www.facebook.com/opotikidistrictcouncil)



Harbour redevelopment update

The billboards around town are providing a great visual reminder of the harbour redevelopment project, creating much discussion and encouraging support.

Regional Council funding – \$250,000 was received for the project from the Regional Council's annual plan. This will assist with the planning and preparation works required at this stage of the project. This contribution is particularly appreciated as the \$18 million pledge for the project from the Regional Council cannot be spent until specific conditions are met.

Impacts on whitebait – One of the conditions of consent for the harbour redevelopment, was a detailed assessment of

saline intrusion. This involves observing the extent to which salt water moves up and down the estuary and river reaches under the various tide and flow conditions. Saline intrusion could negatively affect fish and plant life and alter the natural environment of the harbour.

A detailed study was recently completed, which will act as a comparative baseline after the redevelopment is complete. The new modelling results were good news. They reinforced earlier findings that the changes in salinity after the harbour works are completed will be very minor, if noticeable at all.

The environmental consultant who reviewed the study said he would not expect changes in the natural whitebait habitat or that of any other fish species.



**BAY OF PLENTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

GROUP

Sign up for emergency texts

All Bay of Plenty residents can now sign up to receive civil defence text alerts. The alerts will be free to receive and will advise if there is a significant emergency in the region.

The texts from the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management will be sent only for serious threats to life and property such as tsunami warnings, major earthquakes, volcanic eruptions; events where time is of the essence in getting people to take action. It will include a short

simple message outlining the threat and will tell people to listen to the radio for more information.

Anyone can subscribe to the free text alert system through the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence website www.bopcivildefence.govt.nz.

Close to 1000 people have already subscribed. If you have a cell phone sign up today, it will take just a few minutes and may save your life. Find out more at:
www.bopcivildefence.govt.nz

Matariki

Matariki is a group of stars, the Pleiades or Seven Sisters star cluster, seen low on the horizon at this time of year.

The rise of this cluster and the winter solstice indicates the beginning of the Māori year and has come to be known as Māori New Year. Traditionally, it marks a good time to prepare land for the next crop – new starts and fresh beginnings.

Try these winter words:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Winter – hōtoke | Cold – makariri |
| Rain – ua | Snow – hukarere |
| Wind – hau (kua pau te hau means to be out of breath) | Frost – hukapapa |
| | And to warm you up – hupa – soup! |

Thanks to the Whakatōhea Māori Trust Board for help with this section. Visit www.whakatohea.co.nz or www.facebook.com/whakatoheamtb.

Quick facts: Did you know the Council manages hundreds of kilometres of transport assets?

- 131km unsealed and 339km formed rural roads
- 45km of urban roads, 23.7km in Ōpōtiki township
- 61 bridges
- 36.5km of footpath (5.3km along State Highways)
- 16km of culverts under roads
- 44.6km of kerb and channel
- 1,242 signs
- 397 streetlights

We're committed to keeping our region safe and well connected.



This newsletter is produced quarterly by the Ōpōtiki District Council.

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What's on

The quiet winter months are a great time to try something new.

Ōpōtiki has all sorts of activities on offer; Scottish country dancing, low impact exercise classes for over 50s, beginners courses in Chinese, singing groups, craft groups, model railway and even a ukulele club!

For more information on any of the wide range of Ōpōtiki clubs, groups, activities and events, visit the Ōpōtiki i-SITE or www.opotikin.com, or call (07) 315 3031.



Dunes Dash

The third annual Dunes Dash will take place on Sunday 21st September, 2014.

Start your training for the 21km run and the 10km fun run and walk today. More information will be available soon. Keep your eye on the i-SITE website – www.opotikin.com.

