



Fundraising underway

The fundraising project for Ōpōtiki's technology and research centre was launched in July and has already seen a number of high profile events held to raise funds to get the project underway.

Council would like to see the current library redeveloped into a modern \$3million facility providing the best research, technology and library services to the Ōpōtiki community. We have set aside \$300,000 in the Annual Plan for the centre on the basis that the rest

of the funding can be found through other sources including national and regional grants, corporate sponsorship, local family and community trust donations and local fundraising.

If you have any great fundraising ideas or would like to contribute to the project, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Above These concept drawings have captured the imagination of locals as we work and fundraise towards this building becoming a community hub in the centre of Ōpōtiki.

Ōpōtiki Summer Fest

Each year this event gets bigger and better. Planning is well underway and there are some events already set in stone including the Island View Holiday Park Lantern Festival – a hit with locals and visitors alike.

There will be heaps of other activities including the famous raft race, beach digs, a driftwood art competition, scary nights out, fish racing, movies under the stars, and the Amazing Race. Keep an eye out as dates, times and locations are confirmed on www.Ōpōtikinz.com.



Civil Defence long service recognised

The national director of Civil Defence recently acknowledged two Council staff members with the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Long Service Award.

The award acknowledged 24 years of service by Ian Castles who currently holds the role of Emergency Management Officer at Ōpōtiki District Council. Another award was presented to Barbara Dempsey who has been part of Civil Defence since 1998. She has served in a number of roles in Ruapehu, Whakatāne and here in Ōpōtiki district.

We thank both Barbara and Ian for their outstanding community service.

Below Ōpōtiki Mayor John Forbes, ODC's Barbara Dempsey and Civil Defence director, John Hamilton as Barbara receives her long service award. Bottom Ian Castles holds his long service award and certificate.

Testing your driving

Eastern Bay Road Safety brought a driving simulator to Ōpōtiki for a day to give people an opportunity to test their skills in a range of situations without putting their own car or life at risk.

More than 30 people took up the challenge and many walked away with a different attitude towards their driving and a better awareness of the need to drive to road and weather conditions. That is 30 people who are more aware drivers. That can only help bring down the district's crash statistics.



Looking into your heritage

Have you tried the Ōpōtiki Cemeteries / Urupa search? This great resource allows you to search and find info on burials at the three public cemeteries in the Ōpōtiki township.

Find out more at www.odc.govt.nz/cemeterysearch



Food Act 2014

– what it means for you

The new Food Act may mean some changes for local food businesses. Changes won't take place immediately, but it may mean starting to plan now.

The new Act has a sliding scale where businesses that are higher risk from a food safety point of view will operate under more stringent food safety requirements than lower risk food businesses. Food businesses will move to the new rules in stages over the next three years starting from March 1st, 2016. In the meantime, the Ministry of Primary Industries will be developing regulations, tools and guidance, and there will be opportunities to provide feedback.

Last year, there was some concern expressed in the media that it would mean no more sausage sizzle fundraisers! The new Act provides a clear exemption to allow fundraising sausage sizzles, home baking and the like to take place. The only rule will be that food that is sold must be safe.

What's on All Ōpōtiki events are

Woodlands School Trash and Treasure: 8 November

Ōpōtiki Hospital Reunion: 8 November, Ōpōtiki Golf Club
– for all past and present staff.

For more information on our events, visit the Ōpōtiki i-SITE in person or online www.Ōpōtikinz.com. Alternatively you can call (07) 315 3031.

Harbour redevelopment update

– John Forbes, Ōpōtiki Mayor



A few things have moved along since I last updated you on the harbour redevelopment project.

It was great to see the first mussel barge heading out to attach 11 mussel lines to the newly installed sea anchors off the Ōpōtiki coast. These lines will be catching spat (baby mussels) and producing mussels ready for market sometime before Christmas next year. It is a significant step for the farm and I look forward to seeing a harbour entrance good enough to bring the mussels through for processing right here in Ōpōtiki.

Many of you would have seen some of the excellent coverage of the proposal in national media and we can be assured that our project is front-of-mind for many of our politicians. It is now a matter of making sure we jump through all the right hoops for the government funding we need to take the next steps.

Representatives from the Ōpōtiki District and Bay of Plenty Regional Councils took a self-funded trip to Port Lincoln in South Australia to find out how they built up their aquaculture industry from scratch and some of the lessons they have learnt along the way. It was an excellent learning opportunity and we have come away with some things to keep in mind for our own industry.

For those who want to know more about the Council's harbour redevelopment project, there are many resources available on the Council webpage (www.odc.govt.nz) including the latest Workforce Report, environmental impact studies, economic benefits and many other resources.

Below A Whakatōhea Mussels Ltd boat leaves Whakatāne ready to install the new mussel lines.





Dunes Dash 2014

It was the third annual Dunes Dash in September and the sun peaked through just in time for the 80 runners and walkers to enjoy their 21km or 10km run or walk.

It was another great event, with funds raised donated to the Lions Club to support a wide variety of community projects.

Te Kupu o te Wiki The Word of the Week

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori, or Māori Language Week has been celebrated for more than 30 years and this year there was a national plan to try something new – Te Kupu o te Wiki – which translates as The Word of the Week.

This is a fun and educational challenge. A new Māori word each week for fifty weeks. Some of the words are practical and, with a bit of practise, will become part of your everyday life.

For instance – apopo for tomorrow or taihoa for wait or homai for pass to me. Others are just plain fun. Do you know the Māori word for ukulele or France or ipad?

Find out more at www.kupu.maori.nz



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Remembering Girlie

We were very sad to say farewell to our valued staff member, Girlie Kurei who did a fantastic job looking after our CBD public toilets and was a wonderful public face for Council with the community and visitors.

Girlie passed away in September and will be missed by Council and the wider community.

Fond farewells and warm welcomes at the library

It was a sad farewell to our long-serving librarian, Nethia Morgan, earlier this year.

Nethia retired after 45 years long service in June and staff and the wider community were saddened when Nethia passed away recently. She will be well missed by staff and library regulars alike.

We also welcomed our new librarian, Jo Hunt, into the role and you may have seen the a few changes around the library – a new kids' corner, longer opening hours, free wifi and more desk space. We are excited about seeing the library become a space for knowledge (both the paper and electronic kind) and be the social and community hub on the main street.

Below Nethia Morgan and Jo Hunt at Ōpōtiki District Library.

