



Council's 'pop up shop'

The last Council information open day was a great success with hundreds of people through the doors over the two days. So this year, we are holding another pop up shop in town on January 22 and 23, 2015.

It is a great chance to talk to staff members about anything on your mind. Have your say on the District Plan, the Technology and Research Centre, an update on the harbour redevelopment project and plenty of other information.

So pop in to find out what is happening in our district and have a chat.



Welcome to 2015 Ngā mihi o te Tau Hou – Happy New Year!



I hope you have had a safe and happy festive season and are still enjoying the best that the summer brings to the eastern Bay of Plenty.

Last year was full of action and activity for Ōpōtiki with a great group of Councillors and a strong Council team working closely together for the District. We are a diverse team that represents many different voices in the community but together we are really committed to getting for the best for Opotiki. We saw some exciting steps forward in our drive for a thriving mussel industry in the township and the first mussels are on the lines as I write this. With the commitment of \$18 million from the Regional Council, we are now working closely with central government to get our bid for funding for the harbour redevelopment project across the line.

We are working hard to fundraise for the new Ōpōtiki Technology and Research Centre to bring the best of world technology and information to our doorstep. Tourism and kiwifruit continue to grow and there is a great positive vibe about the district.

I look forward to keeping up this momentum into 2015 as we make it another great year for the Ōpōtiki district.

John Forbes, Ōpōtiki Mayor.

The District Plan

The District Plan review is underway and you now have a very early chance to have your say on your land, your neighbourhood, your town and the wider district.

The District Plan is important because it is the planning document that tells us how we will use land across the district – things like whether land is zoned residential or business, transport, natural hazards, contaminated land, subdivision and designations. Take a moment to consider the issues important to you and let us know your thoughts.

Feel free to have a chat to **Michal Akurangi, Senior Policy Planner** on (07) 315 3030.



Each year the summer events grow bigger and better, and these photos show just how much they are enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.

The Ōpōtiki New World Summer Fest had something for everyone – movies under the stars, beach digs, the O-mazing race, a Scary Night Out and, of course, the famous Ōpōtiki New World Raft Race.

The Island View Holiday Park Lantern Fest had an amazing line-up of local and national talent, and it wowed the crowds once again. Amazing local acts performed alongside the national talents of Moorhouse, Maisey Rika and Daughters of Ally.

The Ōpōtiki Lions also hosted a sand sculpture competition with

some fantastic entries this year and tough decisions for the judges. The library hosted the Travelling Tuataras – a great show for the young people.

There are many more activities this summer so keep up to date with the Ōpōtiki calendar at www.opotikin.com.

Below left: Crowds have fun at the Ōpōtiki New World Beach Dig with 300 sticks buried in this small piece of sand – five special purple sticks were worth a \$25 Ōpōtiki New World voucher and others won prizes like ice blocks and drinks! **Below right:** Locals and visitors of all sorts enjoy the amazing activities Ōpōtiki has on offer during the summer season.



This year's Island View Holiday Park Lantern Fest was bigger and better than ever with a crowd of 2000 people – more than twice as many as last year. A record crowd and an amazing line-up of local and national talent. The event is even getting a national reputation as a 'go to event' for the summer. Well done Ōpōtiki!



The Ōpōtiki New World Movie Nights were also very popular with donations from entry going to help Ōpōtiki local, Rebekah Crosswell in her fight against Lupus disease.



The make-shift village shows the size and popularity of Ōpōtiki's Crest Clean Rodeo.





The new 3D printer at the library has proved very popular and has got people talking. The first member of the public to use the new printer was Exia Shelford-Edwards, here with her first creation with the 3D printer.

WAINUI ROAD
equals
HIGH RISK

Careful on corners

www.whakatane.govt.nz/eastern-bay-road-safety

Take care of our dunes!



Our dunes are precious and are often home to nesting birds and rare native plants and animals.

Only enter and exit at approved points and do not drive on the sand dunes. Stay under 15km per hour at all times. There are some areas where vehicles are prohibited: Tirohanga Beach between Waiorua Stream and Kelly's Beach entry/exit point, Waiōtahe Beach between the Pou Whenua and Appleton Road, the mud flats at Waiōtahe Estuary and all parts of Ōhiwa Harbour below mean high water.



What's on

Ngāi Tai Arts Symposium: January 24–25, 2015

Ōpōtiki Surf Life Saving Club Concert: Saturday February 14, 2015

A&P Show: Saturday February 28, 2015

Ōpōtiki ITM 3 Fish Classic: March 6–8, 2015

Ōpōtiki Charity Concert: March 13–14, 2015

All Ōpōtiki events are

Freedom camping

People love to come to our district and enjoy the many great attractions it has on offer.

One small aspect of this is safe and responsible freedom camping on Council land. Council has identified four sites where freedom camping will be encouraged and has put in place a number of rules and recommendations to make sure that campers and visitors can share the space responsibly. You can find out more at the pop-up shop or by visiting www.odc.govt.nz

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



This newsletter is produced quarterly by the Ōpōtiki District Council.

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