



## Council's summer snaps competition winner

Sarah Wilson won Council's Summer Snaps competition with her spectacular image of Waiotahi Beach.

This Council employee competition got staff thinking about how best to record their memorable summer moments and highlight the Ōpōtiki region's stunning scenery. There were plenty of great shots submitted.

# Have your say

The public consultation period for the 2015–2025 Long-Term Plan (LTP) opens on Friday, April 10.

This enables individuals, organisations and businesses to have their say on Council's suggestions for the direction, priorities, programmes and budgets for the next 10 years. The LTP lists Council's planned activities from 2015–2025. It covers everything we do

and how we pay for it. It also sets the budget for the next decade and is reviewed every three years.

Council is responsible for delivering a wide range of services and facilities, including; water supplies, sewage treatment and disposal, solid waste management, roads and footpaths, parks and reserves, libraries, economic development and animal control. We aim to create a plan that achieves a

## Harbour redevelopment progress



We are making progress on the harbour redevelopment project and things are looking positive.

Representatives from Treasury were in Ōpōtiki recently, helping Council work through the processes and technical requirements for the business case for the Ōpōtiki Harbour Transformation Project, in accordance with Treasury's Better Business Case process. Council is now working with regional stakeholders and central government to develop the business case. It is expected to be completed by June this year.

We are hopeful central government will provide the additional funding Ōpōtiki District Council (ODC) has asked for to fund the project. Bay of Plenty Regional Council has pledged \$18 million on the condition ODC secures central government funding.

Representatives from the Ministry for Primary Industries also visited Ōpōtiki recently to inspect the mussel farm. The visit went well, with the visitors impressed with the farm's progress. Ōpōtiki is New Zealand's leading region for mussel spat production, with more mussel lines put down last month.

We will continue to keep you updated with progress as things move forward. For more information in the meantime, please visit [www.odc.govt.nz/harbour-project](http://www.odc.govt.nz/harbour-project)

– John Forbes, Ōpōtiki Mayor

balance between the right level of investment in our district's future and keeping debt and rates fair and affordable for all.

**The submission period closes on Monday, May 11. Don't miss this chance to have your say.**

**Visit [www.odc.govt.nz/ltp](http://www.odc.govt.nz/ltp) for more information.**



## Travelling Tuataras liven up the library

The Travelling Tuataras visit to the Ōpōtiki Library in January was wonderful, says library manager Jo Hunt.

“It was enjoyed by more than 50 people, young and old. The event was held in the newly redecorated children’s library. It was noisy, it was fun, it was musical, it was story-telling and it was a terrific performance by two very experienced NZ entertainers.

“Best of all it was engaging and the crowd loved participating in the wild and zany activities. We’re looking forward to having them back again soon,” she says.

## Creative Communities funding opens soon

The next funding round for the Creative Communities Scheme opens on April 27 and closes on May 29, 2015.

The scheme is a partnership between the Ōpōtiki District Council and Creative New Zealand. Every year, Creative New Zealand provides money to councils to support local arts activities, with funding rounds held twice a year. Approximately \$11,000 is available per year and any individual, group or organisation can apply. Specific criteria must be met to be eligible to apply.

Various types of projects are considered for these grants such as workshops, performances, exhibitions, short-term arts events and arts-related promotional activities.

**Applications must be received by May 29 for projects starting after June 10, 2015.**



For more information visit [www.odc.govt.nz/ccs](http://www.odc.govt.nz/ccs) or phone Tracey Dale at Ōpōtiki District Council (07) 315 3030.

## Ōpōtiki wharf upgrade comes with warnings

Ōpōtiki District Council has recently assessed the structural integrity of its main wharf.

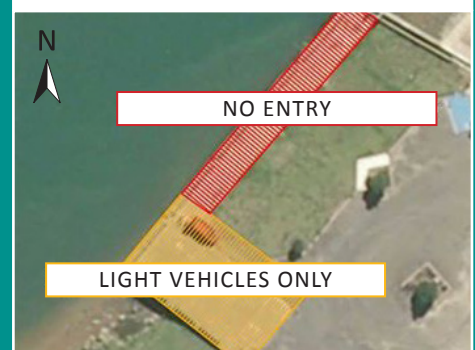
The eastern and western ends are in reasonable condition, but engineers have recommended the middle section (32m, constructed in the 1920s) be demolished. Staff members are seeking resource consent to demolish and replace the affected portion. We hope to lodge these applications as soon as practical.

Provision had been made in next year’s budget for strengthening work, but it appears this work needs to be brought forward. Staff members are developing a plan of what needs doing and what the costs may be, and will seek formal Council approval for this at the next available meeting.

It is likely the western end of the wharf (constructed in the 1940s) will need to be demolished at some stage in the future, but its life could be extended by up to 15 years if the appropriate patch repairs are carried out.

Heavy concrete blocks have been placed to bar access to the middle section, fencing with signage will follow. In the meantime, please do not walk, run, cycle or drive on the middle section, and keep heavy vehicles off the western section.

Opotiki Wharf Loading Restrictions 2015



## Pop-up shop a success

Ōpōtiki District Council’s pop-up shop in January was a success for the second consecutive year, with nearly 200 people taking the chance to give input. It gave locals a chance to share ideas with councillors and Council staff and hear about key projects. It also gave people a forum to have their say about Ōpōtiki’s future.

# Pam's fury

The Eastern Bay sand dunes were spared the worst of Cyclone Pam's fury last week, with initial assessments showing no significant damage.

The mussel farm also survived well, with the mussel spat and equipment surviving waves that were forecast to reach nine metres high. However, the Mōtū Trails cycleway didn't fare as well. Damage to the sand ladder across Tirohanga Beach has brought the closure of that section of the ride until repairs are completed by Department of Conservation staff.

While Pam didn't bring enough rain for the council to test the condition of the sewerage system, it did give staff a chance to test Civil Defence processes. Mayor John Forbes said systems worked well and there was a great social media response, which can be built on in future.

"The cyclone reminded us all of the need to be prepared. We're lucky it didn't come closer and we really feel for everyone in Vanuatu," he said.



## Road safety at the Ōpōtiki A&P Show

Efforts to deliver road safety messages to young drivers created a song and dance at the recent Ōpōtiki A&P Show.

The 'no rewind' event was part of a campaign which encourages young drivers to realise real life has no rewind and to plan ahead to get home safely.

Eastern Bay Road Safety Committee chair Haki McRoberts said the pop-up theatre and dance show was a fresh way to communicate with youth. It included video interviews, a driving simulator, 'booze goggles' demonstrations and car wreck art.

"The event was designed to be entertaining. We wanted to give our audience the chance to express how they felt about the show and their own driving experiences, using video, art and social media," said Mr Roberts.

"We need to encourage our young drivers to think about the driving decisions they are make and help them plan to stay safe."

Videos from the event are on Facebook – [www.facebook.com/Road.safety.Eastern.Bay](http://www.facebook.com/Road.safety.Eastern.Bay)

# Rates rebates and remissions

**Ratepayers!** Your rates may be remitted in full or in part if they meet Council policies. Central government provides rates rebates for people on low incomes, with district councils co-ordinating applications.

You may apply to Council for a rates rebate if you own and live in your property, and have a low income. Your rebate is calculated based on your income, rates and the number of dependants living with you.

Rates rebate applications must be in by June 30. Only one application may be made each year. You will need to provide details such as your income and your partner's income.

**You may apply to Council for a rates remission if:**

- You own two or more neighbouring properties where uniform charges can be treated as one.
- You own Māori freehold land and the land is inaccessible or set aside as Waahi Tapu or for preservation of natural characteristics.

- Your property meets 'potential use' criteria, where its potential use is greater in value than its actual use.
- You are a community or sporting group (up to 50 percent remission).
- Your land is used for economic development, historic, cultural or conservation purposes.
- Your property has been affected by a natural disaster.
- You are experiencing extreme financial hardship.

**Penalties may also be remitted if you make and adhere to formal arrangements to pay rates arrears.**

**Rates rebate and remission forms and information are available on the Council website, [www.odc.govt.nz](http://www.odc.govt.nz), or by contacting Council on (07) 315 3030.**



# Te Matatini

Ōpōtiki District Council congratulates our local kapa haka groups that excelled at the recent Te Matatini national competition.

Performers from Ōpōtiki's Whanau a Apanui won the hotly contested national kapa haka competition, held last month in Christchurch. It is 10 years since the Apanui kapa haka group last won the title.

Ōpōtiki Mai Tawhiti also did well at the four-day festival, being named joint runner-up with Te Arawa group, Te Matarae i Orehu.

Congratulations to both teams on their achievements.

## What's on All Ōpōtiki events are

**Nukuhou North Garage Sale and Market – April 25, 2015.**

11am-3pm at the Nukuhou Hall. *For more information phone Sandy on (07) 312 3710.*

**Ōpōtiki Big Three – Queen's Birthday Weekend, May 30**

– **June 1, 2015.** Annual hunting and fishing challenge sees outdoor lovers compete to bag the heaviest stag, boar, snapper or pheasant with the longest tail. *Phone (07) 315 6880 or 027 554 5544 for more information.*

**Fibre and Fleece – July 10 – 12, 2015.**

The annual design awards and fashion parade showcases stunning garments, furnishings and art forms. This year's theme is Anzac. *Visit [www.fibreandfleece.co.nz](http://www.fibreandfleece.co.nz) for more details.*

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](http://www.opotikin.com) or call (07) 315 3031.

## Job busy, but enjoyable

Tina Gedson started as a customer service officer with Council on February 9 this year and is really enjoying her job. Highlights have been dealing with a range of interesting people and learning



all about the Council. A typical day for Tina involves answering phone calls and enquiries, typing, banking and liaising with customers.

"It's busy, but great," she says.

In her spare time Tina loves to garden and read. She lives locally and says the sea, bush, rivers and weather are among the best things about Ōpōtiki.

"Lots of open spaces, family and friends, what is there not to like?"



## Locator beacons for hire at the i-SITE

Off tramping, hunting, boating or mountain biking? Don't get lost – get yourself a personal locator beacon from the Ōpōtiki i-SITE. They're compact, waterproof and available now.

The 5cm x 9cm beacons cost \$30 for a three-day hire or \$40 for seven days. Second and subsequent weeks, or part thereof, cost \$30.

When you hire one of these beacons you have the added assurance that, if your beacon is not returned 'on time', we will alert the appropriate authorities and start a search for you.

Even experienced people can get lost, so it's worth taking one of these beacons along on your next adventure.