



## Ōpōtiki Events

Our wonderful summer events may be over, but there is still plenty to keep you busy, active, engaged and up to date with your community through the cooler months. You can find out more about them at the [isite](#) or at [www.opotikin.z.com](http://www.opotikin.z.com)

A big one next month will be the Ōpōtiki Adventure Race. Adventure racing is a team sport which involves running or trekking and mountain biking with check points and exciting mystery activities along the way. There is a 3, 6 or 12 hour version so find out more now at the [isite](#).

And don't forget all the action at the Library during the coming months - you can borrow from a huge range of ebooks, audio books, magazines and DVDs (as well as up-to-the-minute regular books!), read the newspapers, use the computers or wifi, join in with the school holiday programmes, join a book club, or find out about the next PechaKucha event.

### From the Mayor

I would like to pay tribute to the huge effort of Council staff to work closely with the community to get really positive results. Often this work goes



unrecognised, but I did see one recent example in the paper. The story was about the Ōpōtiki Horse Trail nearing completion and I was really proud of the way all sorts of organisations had come together to make that plan a reality. The individuals and community groups deserve whole-hearted acknowledgement for their time and dedication. More than a year ago, Council stepped up and supported that project through staff time and financial assistance, and together we now have an excellent community asset that so many people will enjoy. I have proudly shared that story with other councils and Mayors around the country as an excellent example of how this council builds good relationships and works hard with the community to get the right results.

### Love Food Hate Waste

The national Love Food Hate Waste campaign is still making a big difference to our awareness of the good food we throw away every day. Did you know that in New Zealand, the average family throws three full shopping trolleys of uneaten food into the bin each year which is more than \$560 of food going to waste.

There are competitions and giveaways and recipes from well-known chefs including Annabel Langbein, Alyson Gofton and Dr Libby Weaver, so start by visiting [www.lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz) or checking out their facebook page [www.facebook.com/lovefoodhatewastenz](http://www.facebook.com/lovefoodhatewastenz). There are heaps of great ideas on there to help us all reduce waste and start saving money.



*This summer's spectacular Lantern Fest. Image courtesy of James Stanbridge*

### What's On

22 April

Mangrove Removal Working Bee on the Ōhiwa Harbour.

12 May

Rippa Rugby, Ōpōtiki District tournament.

25 August

Butterworth Shield, Primary school rugby and netball.

All Ōpōtiki events are...



## Need help getting your driver's licence?

The new driver licencing programme is working to help more teens and young adults gain their restricted licence and has been rolled out in Ōpōtiki district so that young people can take advantage of employment opportunities in the region due to the growth in aquaculture and associated industries.

You can contact Easybay REAP at the Heartlands Centre to talk about how the new driver licencing programme can help you. You can also keep your eyes out for the branded cars soon appearing around the district as part of the programme supported by Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and NZTA."



## The Real Ōpōtiki visits the capital

The Real Ōpōtiki had a stand-out exhibition at Bowen House in Wellington during February and March this year.

The exhibition has been travelling up and down the country showing off the best of Ōpōtiki art and artists, and also raising funds for Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi.

Successful exhibitions have been held in Auckland, Tauranga, Wellington and of course right here in Ōpōtiki. The roadshow will continue with invitations from several other towns and cities around the country that are keen for a taste of Eastern Bay art.



## Our website goes mobile.

Our website was developed back in 2009 and things have changed a lot in the online world since then. More than half the visitors to our site are now browsing from a mobile device like a phone or ipad and the old website wasn't very responsive to that. So [www.odc.govt.nz](http://www.odc.govt.nz) has been revamped to be more responsive and provide more services for visitors.

The new look means that the website has more security, will load more quickly and be easy to navigate from any screen – your phone, laptop or tablet. It is easier to find your way around and a lot more user-friendly.

It also means we can provide more services online and these will be added over the coming months. Later this year, users will be able to log in so they can do regular tasks like pay rates and water rates, provide feedback, and complete registrations or licensing.

The new Property and Rating search is already proving popular with latest valuations, rates instalment dates and amounts just a click away.

Take a look at the new site and provide your feedback online at [www.odc.govt.nz](http://www.odc.govt.nz)



## Internet of Things

Ōpōtiki recently joined the international conversation on the Internet of Things (IoT) and what it could mean for the future of our district.

At its simplest, it is about 'things' talking to each other over the internet – fridges, phones, cars, buildings and any number of other things.

A recent IoT public education session led by Council had a great turnout especially from the kiwifruit and honey sectors, which can see the potential benefits of the technology. Examples discussed included sensors on remote beehives to monitor bee health or temperature and moisture sensors for agriculture and horticulture land remotely turning on or off sprinklers.



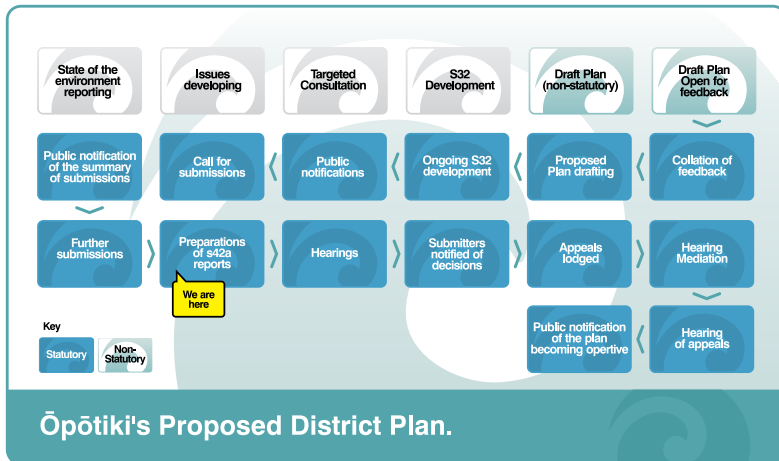
"Image courtesy of Opotiki News. You can read the full article on their website."



# District Plan

Thanks to all those who wrote submissions on Ōpōtiki's Proposed District Plan. We received 60 submissions on a wide range of topics and we are currently preparing what we call "s42areports" to go to the hearings commission in July / August. These will be shared publically before the hearings.

This diagram provides an interesting summary of the legislative process.



# Upgrading our sewers

At the March meeting, Council resolved to renew and repair the existing gravity-fed sewers rather than undertake a complete replacement programme.

Following extensive investigation into the causes and possible solutions to the sewer issues, Council considered alternative replacement models costing \$20-\$30 million. The extensive repair option will cost around \$13 million.

You can read more about the decision on our website.



# Easter Sunday Trading

You may have noticed a few more shops open this Easter Sunday in Ōpōtiki.

In March, Council resolved to adopt a Local Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy allowing businesses in all parts of the District to trade on Easter Sunday if they choose to do so.

There are a few rules in the Act that protect employees, such as required notice periods and the ability for employees to refuse to work on Easter Sunday without supplying a reason.

This doesn't change everything - rules and laws in other legislation such as opening hours or liquor licensing haven't changed.



# Dog de-sexing

If you own a pitbull or pitbull cross, then you could have the dog de-sexed for free.

Pitbulls and other dogs listed under the Dog Control Act 1996 (Dogo Argentino, Brazilian Fila, or Japanese Tosa) can have the cost of their de-sexing covered under a central government funded programme to reduce the risks of menacing and dangerous dogs.

Contact Council to find out more.



To find out more call **07 315 3030** or visit [www.odc.govt.nz](http://www.odc.govt.nz)



Providing great services for **locals** and **visitors**

More than **7,500** visitors to the iSite each year

Over **80,000** people visited the library in 2016



**Two sports pavilions** hired out more than 160 times in the past year

**16,000 bikes** per year on the Dunes Trail

Almost **10,000** visitors to the Hukutaia Domain



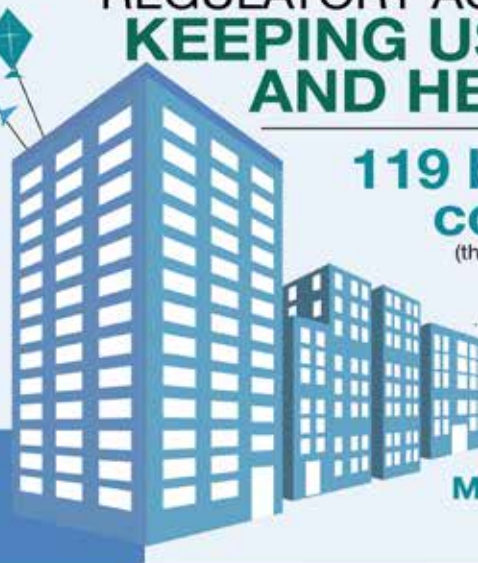
**1,580** registered dogs

**602 dogs** impounded and **161** infringements notices

Council also keeps on top of inspections and administration of

**60 REGISTERED PREMISES** (eg hairdressers, food premises, camping grounds)

**19** liquor outlets



### REGULATORY ACTIVITIES: KEEPING US SAFE AND HEALTHY

**119 building consents**

(this represents building work to the value of almost **\$17m!**)

**33 resource consents**

**93 Land Information Memorandums (LIMs)**

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 **16km** of culverts under roads

**44.6km** of kerb and channel



**1,242** SIGNS



**397** STREETLIGHTS