



Ōpōtiki District Council  
STRONG COMMUNITY STRONG FUTURE

# Pānui

Issue 74 // July 2018



Keeping you up to date with Ōpōtiki District Council

## Rapid number, Rapid response

Those small red numbers on rural addresses play an important role – they ensure that emergency services can find an address quickly when they need to. These ‘rapid numbers’ are in fact a specific distance from a known point – usually the road you are on.

To work, rapid numbers need to be consistent, accurate and in the national LINZ database. Council has a project underway to do just that.

If you live at a rural address where the rapid number has changed (for example because the road layout has changed), you’ll receive a letter from Council letting you know what the new number should be. If you’d like Council to send that number out to you, please let us know.

Council is also working to ensure that all the roads in the district are named, and that the names don’t break the rules set out by LINZ. We’ll need to name all unnamed roads, Māori roads and identify and name any private roads. It is a big project and we expect that people will have strong feelings on new names or old names so keep an eye out for more information on that process over the coming months.



## Knitting, rockstars and more fun at the library

Our fantastic community-minded library puts technology front and centre. And technology isn’t always what you’d expect.

Sit and Knit each afternoon has been popular this winter as local knitters and young people join up to share this (quiet?) pastime.

You may have seen our great fossils on display and in the newspaper. You can read more about these great fossils that were lent to the library by Ilmars Gravis on his blog site [aotearoarocks.blogspot.com](http://aotearoarocks.blogspot.com)

And don’t forget the school holiday programme running at 10am each weekday of the school holidays from 9-27 July. Great activities and heaps of fun for the young and young at heart.



*Mahinarangi Matenga and Paige Rowe with fossils. See this and other great stories about what is going on at your local library on their Facebook page [OpotikiLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/OpotikiLibrary).*

## From the Mayor

The Long Term Plan process is thorough, in-depth, exhausting and also rewarding. It is how we look into the future – what we need to do to get where we want to be (and how we fund that).

This year I was really pleased with the number of people who took the time to share their thoughts with us through the public process. We had more than twice the number of submissions as the last LTP consultation and that is an excellent result. The final LTP is a much better document because of it.

As well as looking ahead ten years, the LTP process is always a chance to look back at what we have achieved since the last one. It was a chance for me to look at some of the good work we have done under the banner of ‘Harbour development’. Pathways to Work, the driver licencing programme, necessary improvements to the sewerage network and other infrastructure, and some excellent opportunities for boat building and research. I am also aware that plans for processing facilities are well underway.

While we got a ‘no at \$145m’ from the government, we are still working through what a ‘yes’ might look like with the Minister’s advisory panel. This has been a chance to reflect

on what we have already achieved and how much more we would achieve getting the Harbour across the line.

**Mayor John Forbes**



## Long Term Plan adopted

On 30 June, Council adopted the Long Term Plan 2018-2028.

The LTP is the district’s activity plan and budget for the next decade. It is a list of projects, activities and initiatives prepared in conjunction with the community to map out the key priorities and necessary funding.

Community feedback played an important part in developing and finalising the LTP with more than twice the number of submissions as the previous LTP.

You can read the full LTP on our website but some of the key decisions were around moving to 40 litre wheelie rubbish bins, investing significantly to improve stormwater and keep pace with climate change, an additional \$15,000 to extend the dangerous dog free neutering programme and an additional \$10,000 for the Coast Community Board.



## Waste not, want not

Waste has been front and centre over the last few months as we collected feedback and adopted our new Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and gained significant feedback on our Long Term Plan.

Feedback showed a clear preference from the community to move to 40 litre refuse wheelie bins from 2020. Council decided to pair these bins with special bags for recycling. That means for this year, residents in kerbside rubbish collection areas will still need to have their 52 rubbish bags for the year.

Rubbish reduction has also been in the public eye recently with some residents participating in “Plastic Free July” this month and a focus on the ‘Rs’ of being waste-free.

In addition, worms have been very popular with full worm composting workshops run by ZeroWaste NZ. Council has its own worm farm operating. It is a great way to turn food scraps and organic waste into a nutrient rich fertiliser and soil conditioner.



*Worm farm*



## Dog Rego

Don't forget to get your dog registered this month to avoid penalties!



# Wharf re-build

Thanks to everyone for their patience while the older 1920s section of the Ōpōtiki wharf was demolished in autumn this year.

Demolition is now complete and the area is open to the public again. There is a new fence along a section of the edge (as we are required to have under the building code). It is a removable fence so that it doesn't get damaged in a flood event or so that it can be moved elsewhere when the wharf is redeveloped in the future.

During demolition, remnants of the even older 1904 timber wharf and rock embankment were uncovered and were unable to be removed. The fenced area is quite shallow at low tide and there is a real risk of injury if someone was to fall or jump. Warning signs have been installed for that reason.



## Macrons in Ōpōtiki

Council recently agreed to start the process to correct the official spelling of the district name through Land Information New Zealand, ensuring the inclusion of the macrons in Ōpōtiki.

Macrons are the small dash above a vowel showing a longer vowel sound. They are crucial in Te Reo as they tell you how to pronounce a word and are necessary to understand a word's meaning.

Council and many other groups (schools, iwi and community groups)

have used macrons in signage and documents for a long time. It is important to formalise this use and recognise the importance of the macrons and our partnership with local iwi.

As Council starts the process, there will be a formal consultation period

for people to express their views through the New Zealand Geographic Board. If the name changes formally, there won't be a legal requirement for business and groups to change their name. They can use or not use macrons at their own discretion.

## How Ōpōtiki got its name

Tarawa was a chief who had remained, or had been left, in Hawaiki at the time of the migration, but who decided to join his people in Aotearoa.

Tarawa sailed his canoe accompanied by two fish pets. He joined his pets in the water, swimming most of the way and they guided him to landfall on the Waiōtahe Beach near Paerata.

Concerned for his pets, he walked along the beach and eventually came across a spring into which he released them. This spring became known as O-Potiki-Mai-Tawhiri meaning "Of the pets (or children) from afar". This spring is the original Ōpōtiki; the town which is now Ōpōtiki was called Pa-Kowhai in pre-European days.

*Abridged from Whakatōhea of Ōpōtiki by A.C Lyall*



# At the Fieldays

This was the 50th year of the Fieldays in Hamilton and our i-SITE staff joined the Mōtū Trails stand to showcase some of the best Ōpōtiki has to offer.

The event attracts over a hundred thousand visitors and was an incredible opportunity to put Ōpōtiki top-of-mind for those who came past the stand.

Our i-SITE manager said that there was fantastic interest and knowledge of the Mōtū Trails Cycleway and they answered hundreds of other questions on walks, accommodation and things to do in Ōpōtiki. A great time to make sure we are on the map!



# 40 years working in and for the community

Last month, Council's Finance and Corporate Services Advisor, Sue Watson marked 40 years working for Ōpōtiki District Council. Sue is not just an important member of Council's team, she is also well-known around the district for all her work in and around the community. Congratulations on this milestone Sue!

*Sue receiving flowers from Ōpōtiki District Council CEO Aileen Lawrie*



# New life for old instruments

Last year the old Ōpōtiki Band Hall was relocated to a new home and this year the last of the instruments and music were sent to the Pacific islands for a new life with school band. Lou Davey, musical director of the Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass Development bands (and teacher of many young Eastern Bay musicians), arranged for the instruments and music to be sent through the Furniture for Schools charity.



# ŌPŌTIKI WHAT'S ON

## Ōpōtiki Library school holiday programme

9-27 July – 10am each week day

## Groups and clubs

During the quieter winter months, why not try one of the dozens of fantastic groups and clubs that meet regularly around the Ōpōtiki district.



*Try out the Ōpōtiki Community Walking Group. They meet somewhere different around Ōpōtiki every Tuesday at 9am. Call the Ōpōtiki i-SITE or visit their website for more information. Or contact Lin on (07) 315 6650 or 027 636 5866.*

*Thanks to the Ōpōtiki News for this great photo of the group in action.*

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

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