



Opotiki District Council  
STRONG COMMUNITY STRONG FUTURE

# Pānui

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Keeping you up to date with Opotiki District Council

## A significant milestone for Opotiki – the Harbour channel opens to recreational boats for the first time

**It's been a couple of busy months, full of incredible milestones for the Opotiki Harbour project. In July, the first water flowed between the seawalls. Dredging took a little longer than originally expected, but it was well worth the wait. Thank you for your patience.**

Another exciting milestone decades in the making was the Opotiki harbour channel opening for recreational boats on 15 September. The community were clearly excited, with 37 boats going through the channel on the first Saturday alone. The opening comes at a perfect time for local boaties, with summer just around the corner.

At this stage, it's just private vessels that can drive through the channel, but in a few months' time, the channel will be open for larger vessels too. This will not only provide an economic boost for Opotiki, but it will also improve safety. The Coastguard boats can be out there in a matter of seconds if they're needed for an emergency, which is a significant improvement when it comes to our community staying safe out on the water.

It's a win-win-win, great for our community, our economy, and for the safety of those out on the water.

For now, the harbour walls are still an active construction site, so please keep off the land-based worksites. Thank you for your patience, we are really looking forward to the full completion of the project in early 2024.



## Harbour-Wharf Masterplan update

**Following community consultation, the revised Opotiki Harbour-Wharf Masterplan was adopted by Council at their meeting on 12 September.**

Funding for the projects identified in the Masterplan was budgeted for in the current LTP and the approval of the plan means these can now begin. In the meeting on 12 September, Council approved funding allocations for three initial projects:

- \$1m to upgrade the existing town wharf.
- \$1m for the construction of the access ramp and dredge compound on Snell Road.
- Up to \$100,000 to realign Motu Trail around the town wharf.

A big thank you to everyone in the community who provided feedback during the consultation period for the Wharf-Harbour Masterplan – we are excited for what's to come.



## From the mayor

September was full of many amazing milestones and even provided me with an unforgettable opportunity to join some of our key stakeholders on the first boat through the Ōpōtiki Harbour channel. It was a great day, and even better to see the community out there on the water as soon as the gates opened.

Unfortunately, heavy rainfall in the last week of September dampened the mood for what was a great month. I'd just like to thank our team at Council for their hard work over the week in responding to and mitigating several issues popping up around the district, from flooding to a boil notice. I'd also like to express huge gratitude to the community for helping to keep us informed and sticking together to keep everyone safe.

Council are now investigating the event on Duke Street that saw water from farmland overtop of the Duke Street bank and flood some residential streets. Unfortunately, flooding isn't new to us here in Ōpōtiki. Past events have triggered several actions throughout the years to help protect our town and the surrounding farmland.

After the Waioeka and Otarā Rivers flooded Ōpōtiki in 1964, stop banks were installed around town several months later. After the amalgamation of the two councils in the 1980s, the focus went to protecting rural areas as well.

Attention now needs to turn to finding a better balance between protecting both the town and the farmland at the same time, by ensuring systems and structures work well for all.

We already have projects underway and in the pipeline that will help make our town more resilient to these types of events, such as raising the Duke Street bank.

The recent flooding in town came after heavy localised rain, but in the scheme of things, it was not a major event. We're now in recovery and review mode. It's not about pointing fingers, it's about coming together with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council to work out what went wrong, find a solution, and figure out how this solution can be financed without hitting an already heavily burdened town of property owners.

David Moore – Ōpōtiki Mayor

## New tenants in town

We have some exciting new tenants in town. If you haven't been to check them out already – make sure you do!

### EASTBAY REAP

Both Heartlands and Eastbay REAP are well known in Ōpōtiki and have a long history in town, but due to growth and offering more services to the community, they have divided their two services into separate buildings. Heartlands has stayed at 93 Church Street, and Eastbay REAP has moved to the new standalone premises at 101A Church Street (between Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi and the Hospice shop).

### THE REGIONAL BANKING HUB

The Regional Banking Hub is another new tenant, at 103B Church Street. The hub, with a banking lobby, two ATMs and a coin exchange machine, is open every day from 8am–6pm. Plus, you can see bankers from different banks on Tuesday–Friday from 10am–2pm – see the schedule below:

<b>Tuesday</b>	Westpac
<b>Wednesday</b>	BNZ
<b>Thursday</b>	ASB
<b>Friday</b>	ANZ

It's advised to make an appointment, you can do that by emailing [Opotiki.hub@nzba.org.nz](mailto:Opotiki.hub@nzba.org.nz) or by popping in to see the team.



### TE WĀNANGA O AOTEAROA

Last but not least, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa has moved from Elliot Street into the new building at 103 Church Street.

Te Wānanga o Aotearoa is a well-respected and uniquely Māori tertiary education organisation, offering a wide range of educational programmes to students across Aotearoa.

We know having the Te Wānanga o Aotearoa Ōpōtiki campus on Church Street will play a key role in revitalising our CBD.



## New customer portal now available

**We've got some great news! On 10 October our new MyŌpōtiki online customer portal went live. We hope you find the new one easier to use, with better functionality.**

You can use our online services system to send us applications, let us know about issues, request information, view service maps, pay things like rates and sundry invoices and keep your details updated.

Make sure to log in so your transactions are always available to view and to access further services.

*Handy tip: You can find the login button on the top right of our website.*



## 2023 Shake Out – National earthquake drill

On Thursday 19 October at 9:30am, ShakeOut will take place across Aotearoa New Zealand to remind people of the right action to take during an earthquake. Drop, Cover and Hold. You can also practice a tsunami hīkoi (evacuation walk) if you're in a coastal area. Register your household, business, school or organisation to do the drill and join in with over 500,000 New Zealanders. Sign up here: [getready.govt.nz/shakeout](https://getready.govt.nz/shakeout)

### Check your updated tsunami evacuation map

Tsunami evacuation maps for the whole region have now been updated.

What you need to know:

1. **Evacuation zones are now BLUE**
  - Bay of Plenty tsunami evacuation zones are now blue to make them simpler and easier to read.
  - Blue Means Go: in a tsunami warning, get out of the blue.
2. **In parts of Ōpōtiki, zone boundaries have changed**


Check to see if there is a change for places you live, work and play, and make sure your tsunami evacuation plan is up to date: [getready.govt.nz/household-plan](https://getready.govt.nz/household-plan)

You can find the maps and information at [www.bopcivildefence.govt.nz](https://www.bopcivildefence.govt.nz)



**BAY OF PLENTY  
CIVIL DEFENCE  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
GROUP**

Ōpōtiki maps





Kia Mataara, Ōpōtiki!



## Pākihihikura Harbour planting project is underway, with help from local tamariki

Whakatōhea Tiaki Taiao has teamed up with the community to help restore and revegetate parts of the dunes near Pākihihikura Harbour, as construction moves into its final phases.

Tiaki Taiao were joined by students from five local schools, Ōpōtiki Primary School, Te Kura o Waioweka, Te Kura Mana Māori Maraenui, Te Kura o Torere, and Kutarere School. Together they planted 3,000 new plants in the eastern back dune area.

There are expansive areas mapped out for planting, so this will be an ongoing project that aims to be completed over the next two winters. We will provide ongoing updates on this project as we have them.

## Waihou Bay Masterplan

As you may know, we are in the process of putting together a Masterplan for the Waihou Bay area to improve facilities, access, and community use. We have been talking with the community and received some fantastic feedback over the last couple of months. We would like to thank everyone who took part and provided feedback on the plan. All feedback will be collated and modifications made to update the Masterplan. A further project update will be provided in due course.





## Let us know!

**When events like the heavy rain in September happen, it's hard for us to be everywhere at once – so we really appreciate it when issues and updates are reported back to us.**

They give us real-time local insights, which help us to stay across everything and prioritise jobs. This allows our staff and contractors to respond as quickly as possible. So, thank you to everyone who sent anything through to us – we really appreciate it. We invite you to send these updates to us any time, not just in a wet weather event. You can find a list of ways to contact Council with any concerns, issues or updates here: [www.odc.govt.nz/our-council/contact-us](http://www.odc.govt.nz/our-council/contact-us)

## Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breast cancer affects one in nine wāhine in Aotearoa, these statistics mean it's quite likely that you or someone you know have been impacted by it. The good news is that there is a high chance of being able to treat it if it's caught early. It's really important to know what to look out for and where you can get checked.

Deputy Mayor, Shona Browne, is a breast cancer survivor and has been for more than 24 years. Her one piece of advice is: "Know your body and if there are any changes, look into it as soon as you can because early detection is key. Support each other or even arrange to go for your mammogram together as a group! They aren't fun to have but it's better than the alternative."

Check out the Breast Cancer Foundation NZ website for helpful tips and information: [www.breastcancerfoundation.org.nz/breast-awareness](http://www.breastcancerfoundation.org.nz/breast-awareness)

# Long-Term Plan 2024-2034

Update

Council started work on the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024-2034 over the last few months.

This included drafting new community priorities and outcomes. The draft priorities are below and will be presented to Council for endorsement on 24 October 2023.

Feedback from our community has been clear – priorities that link to relationships and wellbeing are most important and the other three priorities must be viewed through the lens of:

- Strong relationships with Iwi and other stakeholders.
- All decisions should enhance the wellbeing of our district.

Council will continue to work towards finalising the LTP, with an opportunity for the community to provide feedback on the plan from March 2024. We will continue to update you all as we go.

### COUNCIL'S VISION: Strong Community, Strong Future

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES	
1	<b>Strong relationships and partners</b> <i>We strive to establish, develop and maintain genuine relationships with iwi and hapū, community groups and stakeholders.</i>
2	<b>Investment in our district</b> <i>We advocate for, and attract high-quality investment across our district.</i>
3	<b>Wellbeing is valued</b> <i>We value the wellbeing, toi ora and engagement of all our communities, now and into the future.</i>
4	<b>Our communities are resilient</b> <i>We enable our communities to make informed, safe decisions about resilience and adaptation.</i>
5	<b>Growth is sustained over time</b> <i>We plan for a district which is future focused and ready for growth.</i>

## Creative New Zealand - Funding boost available for local art projects



Ōpōtiki District Council administers funds from Creative New Zealand's Creative Communities Scheme to help support individuals, groups or organisations with local art projects. Applications for this year's funding are open now, and close on Friday 27 October 2023.

There is approximately \$20,000 to allocate each year, from two funding rounds. Projects such as art, dance, drama, literature, music, seminars, workshops, community art and cultural events may be eligible.

All applications are considered by an assessment committee made up of dedicated representatives from the Ōpōtiki district. Sign up here: [odc.govt.nz/ccs](http://odc.govt.nz/ccs)