



**Ōpōtiki District Council**  
STRONG COMMUNITY STRONG FUTURE

# Pānui

Issue 96 // January 2024



Keeping you up to date with Ōpōtiki District Council

## Ōpōtiki Summer Festival 2023/24

**Our events team have again delivered and supported an outstanding collection of whānau-friendly events for an action-packed summer!**

Thousands of locals and visitors alike have enjoyed a wide range of events, new and old. The Ōpōtiki Rodeo, fishing competitions, outdoor movies, live music, and popular beach games and races.

If you haven't already been making the most of these events, it is not too late! There are still O-mazing activities including events for horse-lovers, beach-lovers and fish-lovers. And don't forget the hugely popular Ōpōtiki Lantern Festival and O-Mazing Race. Grab a full calendar of events at the isite or online.

As always, the Lantern Festival is an impressive artistic line-up of Aotearoa's most talented artists, amazing sounds, kai and fun for the whole whānau. Early bird tickets are all sold, limited second release tickets at \$15 for adults may still be available online from Eventfinda or at the Ōpōtiki isite. Gate sales will be available if not sold out prior for adult \$20, 15 years and under free.

*Race the Tide is always a popular event. Teams of three or four people have an hour to build a structure that must support them all as the incoming tide comes to wash them away. Last structure standing wins! Thanks to Ōpōtiki News for the photo.*



*The skatepark at Whitikau Reserve is really popular and you might have seen some photos of 11-year-old Rawiri Black in the Ōpōtiki News making the most of the park this summer. With toilets, shelters, barbeques, fences, benches, plantings, green spaces for games and an incredible new playground, this area has something for all ages. If you see any damage or issues, you can report it to council.*



## What's on

**8-19 January**

**School holiday programme at Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi 10:30am-12pm**

**15-29 January**

**Small Works – Plus Art Exhibition Ōpōtiki Arts Hall**

**18-21 January**

**Slim's Family Fishing Competition**

**Saturday 20 January**

**ŌPŌTIKI LANTERN FESTIVAL  
3pm-9pm, Princess Street Reserve  
Early bird tickets still available**

**Thursday 25 January**

**Mitre 10 Ōpōtiki O-Mazing Race, Ōpōtiki. 10am, i-Site, \$10 per team**

**Thursday 25 January**

**Bluelight Movies at Deluxe Theatre, gold coin donation**

**Tuesday 6 February**

**The Gourmet Canvas, Ohui Domain**

**Saturday 10 February, 9am**

**Ōpōtiki Coastguard Show & Shine**

# From the mayor

Ngā mihi o te wā!

It is hard to believe we are already halfway through January 2024! I hope that like me, you have an opportunity to rest and relax this summer holiday season. I have certainly taken the opportunity to get out on the water for a fish or two and enjoy a few of our summer activities with the whānau.

Last year was a year of highs and lows, tough times and good. Our incredible new harbour entrance was opened to boat traffic for the first time. Te Whakatōhea signed their Treaty settlement with the Crown and Te Whānau a Apanui and the Crown initialled a deed of settlement as well. These milestones mark a significant turning of the tides for our district.

Cyclone Gabrielle just skimmed us and hit our neighbours so very hard. We were able to help and support our neighbours in many ways, and thanks to everyone who got involved in that. It was also a reminder that we all need to be prepared for these natural disasters at home and at work.

During this period of change, we want to make sure we are setting up future generations to thrive in the district. We have some tough conversations on the horizon as we make decisions about the long-term plans for council and I really encourage people to get involved in those decisions.

I look forward to a safe, happy and productive 2024.

David Moore, Ōpōtiki Mayor



## Harbour update

This huge project is set to finish this year and there were some significant milestones in 2023 – Pākihikura is now flowing completely between the two seawalls and the harbour is open to recreational boat traffic. Dredging is nearing completion and the old river mouth is now almost entirely closed off. The 2-tonne hanbar units HEB Construction and Charlie Seymour delivered to local kura have been painted (thanks Resene!) and have been placed in several key spots and along the lengths of the seawalls. They look amazing!

The new beach and dune areas that have been created with the closing of the old river mouth cover an area of approximately 10ha. Plants have been ordered and pest and predator controls are already underway in partnership with Whakatōhea's Tiaki Taiao team. This area will be one of the largest dunes planting projects in the country and will extend over three winters.

The new harbour sits across the former sand spit at the entrance to Pākihikura which was a popular breeding ground for dotterel. However, with a little bit of extra love and attention, the birds have proved to be adaptable in relocating to nesting sites on both sides of the harbour walls over this last season.



## Workforce Development

Introducing Maia Calcott, the new Workforce Development Coordinator at council. Maia is a great person to talk to if you are a young person looking for work, looking for support or training to get into a role. Or if you are an employer looking for workers, business support or staff training opportunities. There are all sorts of incredible opportunities through programmes like Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs, apprenticeships, driver licencing and so much more.

[www.odc.govt.nz/workforcematters](http://www.odc.govt.nz/workforcematters)





Download the free mobile app, **Antenno**, to receive notifications and alerts about places you care about – things like community events, changes to rubbish collections, road works and more.

Antenno also makes it easy for you to submit feedback or report issues such as a damaged footpath, road pothole, graffiti or to submit feedback or an idea to Council. So if your phone is never far out of your reach, neither is Council!

## Connect | Hono Mai

Connect | Hono Mai is a new way you can easily add your thoughts and feedback on council projects and plans. If email or paper forms still work better for you, that's also fine (they're not going anywhere!). But if you are used to having the world at your fingertips on your phone check out Connect | Hono Mai and create a profile so you get notified when there are new projects or updates. You don't need to create a profile to provide feedback, but it does make it easier if you are a regular user or want to pop in and out of the conversation.

[www.connect.odc.govt.nz](http://www.connect.odc.govt.nz)



## Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi

More than 7000 locals and visitors felt the welcome of Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi during the summer months last year and this summer we might welcome even more.

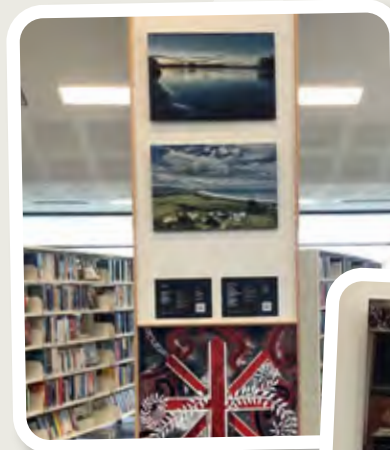
There are so many reasons to visit! To use the incredible resources in the Makerspace, to enjoy the buzzing of the school holiday programme, to learn some new chess skills, borrow books, find movies, use the wifi, or do some research, the Ōpōtiki district library is always a hive of activity.

The theme of this year's school holiday programme is Beaches so come on down and join us as we discover new ways to exercise our creative brains! Weekdays until 19 January, 10:30-midday.

Our large format printer/cutter, Ārohirohi, has been hard at work producing vinyl stickers and other creative designs for our customers. As well as producing large and small stickers on two different types of vinyl material, we have recently added glossy photo paper which allows for beautiful photo prints.



*Ārohirohi – our large format printer/cutter.*



The walls of Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi are hosting a stunning exhibition until 29 March. A documentary installation titled **Tangata~Whenua: Ōpōtiki is an embodiment of Toiroa Arapeta Williams' PhD research**, curated by Tangimoe Clay, photographs by Dr Marcos Mortensen Steagall.

# In brief

The popular **swimming hole on the Otara River** (near the corner of King Street and Buchanan Street) is back open this summer with vehicle access and parking in dry weather. Please take your rubbish with you when you go and keep speeds super slow, looking out for pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders.

Thanks to everyone who provided feedback on the **Waihou Bay masterplan** either online, in person or at one of the well-attended public events. There was a lot of feedback on how to improve facilities, access, and community use and we expect to have more to share in the first part of this year.

A reminder to owners of **earthquake prone buildings** that buildings must be compliant with national legislation by 2029. A letter was sent last year to identified owners recommending that assessments should be carried out as soon as possible so that owners know the scope of works and repairs to be spread out over the coming years.



In December there was a dawn blessing for the beautiful **new waharoa near the skatepark**. Check out these stunning carvings next time you visit Whitikau Reserve. You can also keep an eye out for the new pou in the reserve and throughout the rohe of Te Whakatōhea. These pou are part of a new heritage trail, developed in partnership with Te Whakatōhea Māori Trust Board. An app is being built to help tell our unique stories alongside these beautiful markers.



**DRIVE SAFE,  
WIN BIG!**

**Spot the Radio 1XX  
road safety vehicle  
this summer to be  
in to win some fab  
summer swag!**

Facebook.com/Road.Safety.EBOP

WHAKATĀNE  
District Council

# Mind the manu!

In a few areas of Opotiki's lengthy coastline, vehicles are prohibited because of the risks to other beach users, damage to coastal plants causing erosion and of course, risks to our nesting native birds. In many of these areas, we have used large concrete bollards to allow pedestrian access but stop vehicles and the damage they cause.

Here you can see the lengths people have gone to to remove the concrete and piles to allow their vehicle access to the beach. This would have required heavy machinery and a lot of time and effort. It also costs ratepayer money. If you see vandalism like this, you can call the Police and report it through our Antenna app.

