



Ōpōtiki District Council
STRONG COMMUNITY STRONG FUTURE

Pānui

Issue 88 // January 2022

Keeping you up to date with Ōpōtiki District Council

2021 in review

1. Rawinia Rangi Reserve is usually packed with families and kids enjoying the new space
2. The improvements and extension to the skate park are really popular with wheels of all types
3. Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi shines in the middle of town
4. Empty spot on the main street ready for an exciting new building to start
5. Cycleway extension opened to the pipi beds
6. Renovated Plunket rooms with new tenants moving in
7. Amazing community-led effort to get vaccination rates up and prepare for Covid-19
8. Harbour project taking shape near the river mouth

And also... Hospice shop moved to bigger and brighter council premises, improvements in the town centre, new car parking near the new gateway to Motu Trails, horse trails built and extended, mussel factory opened, new cadet roles at Council...

What a year! Thanks to our hard-working contractors, Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs, funding partners, community groups, iwi partners and many others who helped make 2021 such a success. We look forward to even more in 2022!



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

From the Mayor

Happy New Year and welcome to 2022 from your Council.

I can't believe it is 2022 already! Looking at the front of this Pānui, I am so proud to see how much we achieved together in 2021. I felt blessed to be the mayor who saw the culmination of a lot of mahi to fund and build Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi. That building is already proving to be a real heart and hub in town and we are fortunate to have it. It does remind me that we need to be working towards bringing these incredible services to our whānau up the Coast in mobile form and I know that is on the cards for the coming year or so.

Covid, lockdowns, getting our vaccination rates up, watching our harbour entrance grow, a new playground, an amazing skatepark which I see packed every day, improving facilities and services. And we had some big and difficult decisions – Hukutaia, council offices, vaccine passes in council facilities – none of these have an easy answer.

There are more changes on the horizon. Just a few short months ago, we asked for community feedback to inform the Council submission on central government's Three Waters proposal. We had some clear and thoughtful feedback from the community, and a long list of our own concerns. So we were as concerned as many of our constituents when we heard that the process would be made mandatory and that the decision that it would be mandatory was in fact made right back in June.

Our response to that has been to join the 23 councils around the country who are keen to work with government to find another way to get the benefits from the water reforms, without the loss of democracy. This group, Communities 4 Local Democracy - He hapori mō te Manapori, will be working to put forward other options in the coming months.

I think Ōpōtiki has shown its resilience this year and we should be proud of all that we have achieved. Please enjoy a break this holiday season and let's face the challenges and opportunities of 2022 together.



Mayor Riesterer, Hon Kiritapu Allan and Mayor Judy Turner at the opening of Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi.



Waiting for dawn.



Hon Kiritapu Allan cuts the ribbon and officially opens the building.



Dawn visitors wander through the new space.

Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi opens

This new building is so special we opened it twice! You can see here several photos from the dawn blessing and the later official ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The inside of Te Tāhuhu is filled from top to bottom with incredible pieces of local art and the walls are bursting with the stories being told.

The building is already a community hub, with dozens of new library cards issued, the new quiet rooms and spaces providing study areas, meeting rooms and spaces to play a game or two. The kids' corner is particularly popular!



Courtyard area shared with Art Ōpōtiki.

LIBRARY MOVE

The incredible team at the library have moved many times in the last few years and they took the big move into their forever home in their stride. The book sales proved very popular and there were fewer books to move but many many pieces of technology from the digital hub and old premises to untangle!



Setting up for formal ribbon cutting old and new buildings in Ōpōtiki side by side.

ART IN TE TĀHUHU O TE RANGI

The beauty of the building is reflected in dozens of pieces of art throughout the space. A locally-produced documentary tells the story of the artists and their art as they produced taonga for the new building. There is also a short video of the blessing and opening of Ōpōtiki's new community space.

You can find these videos on Ōpōtiki District Council's YouTube channel.



First visitors enter through the front doors with incredible new carving by Heke Collier.



Welcomed with a waiata.



Skatepark and pump track

A very rare photo of the skate park and pump track not teeming with wheels! This incredible new facility is very well used and there are often dozens of people of all ages using the different tracks. The new toilets and parking areas open in January and the new gateway to the Motu Trails will help link this whole area with the town centre, shops and facilities.

Thanks also to ACC who have helped out with funding for new helmets to protect young heads as well. There will be opportunities for you or your business to sponsor a helmet and details will be on the council website soon.



Changes for horse owners in Ōpōtiki town

At the December council meeting, a number of changes were made to district bylaws that will impact horse owners who bring their horses into the town area.

Councillors debated the matter extensively, and over several months carried out a consultation process and spoke to the horse-owning community. There was also feedback from residents who were concerned about safety for both animals and people with issues of roaming horses on roads and surrounds.

Changes mean that while horses are permitted in the town centre, horse owners must provide council with evidence that their horses will be kept securely in a fenced paddock. Council will keep a register of horses and will be able to check that the horses in secure paddocks in the township are identified in the register. Horses not in the register are not permitted in the town area and may be impounded. Stallions continue to be banned from the township unless desexed (chat to council about funding assistance for desexing stallions and colts).

WASTEWATER TESTING

Did you know Ōpōtiki also has regular composite testing for Covid-19 in our wastewater? Thanks to the engineering operations team for all their hard work helping the Ministry of Health in their work.



Speed review coming soon

Around the country, local councils and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency are identifying roads where changes to speed limits could make a big difference in preventing deaths and serious injuries, and where communities are calling for change.

As part of that process, Council and Waka Kotahi are working together to get community feedback on all the roads in the district, both state highways and local roads, as part of a Speed Limit Review.

There are a few places where the community has been calling out for change for a while and this is now our chance to move this through the formal process and get those changes in place in the next couple of years.

Keep an eye out for more information around March and April 2022 so you can add your local thoughts and feedback on speed and safety.

This newsletter is produced quarterly by:



Ōpōtiki District Council
STRONG COMMUNITY STRONG FUTURE

Ōpōtiki District Council
108 St John Street,
PO Box 44, Ōpōtiki.
Phone: (07) 315 3030

Email: info@odc.govt.nz

Web: www.odc.govt.nz

 [OpotikiDistrictCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/OpotikiDistrictCouncil)