



Ōpōtiki District Council
STRONG COMMUNITY STRONG FUTURE

Pānui

Issue 90 // July 2022



Keeping you up to date with Ōpōtiki District Council



Matariki shines

This year for Matariki, the council events team partnered with around 20 local groups to pull together 11 days of events and activities to celebrate Aotearoa's first Matariki public holiday.

There was so much to see, do and learn – star gazing, waka ama, Ki o Rahi, music, the night markets, skate comps, workshops, hākari, art, walks, skating, movies and so much more. We'd like to thank everyone that participated in events and helped to organise a true community celebration.



Farewell to our CEO

This month, Council says a fond farewell to Aileen Lawrie who has been at the helm as chief executive for 12 years. During that time, she has overseen a transformation of council and the district. Most obviously, the build of the harbour entrance, but also all the works and planning to make sure Ōpōtiki was ready for the changes and ensure that the benefits would flow to the community. Things like sewer and water upgrades, facilities, playgrounds and the skatepark, footpaths, and cycleways. She has also overseen many changes inside the organisation to ensure council was capable and transparent when funding of this size

and scale were added to the normal work of council (financial systems and processes, file management and security and governance checks and balances).

Aileen said that she is particularly proud of staff and a management team who are working incredibly well and hard for the community. She is confident that the council organisation has never been in better shape and is punching well above its weight.

Aileen has taken a new role as chief executive for Thames Coromandel District Council and we wish her all the best as she takes on a new challenge.

Harbour update

There have been a couple of exciting milestones on the build of Ōpōtiki's new harbour entrance this month.

The sea walls have (mostly) reached their final length and you can see them here extending more than 400m out to sea. They are now being carefully protected with rock and hanbar 'armour' to hold up to the elements. Nearly 12,000 hanbar units have also been cast, with thanks to East Bay Concrete for their work supplying to that incredibly large job.

The new amphibious barge named Hinewai is now on the water. She will be used to dredge the river over the coming months and then the new harbour entrance and stockpile the sediment to close the existing river mouth next year. Harbour users are asked to check out the local media and signage at the wharf for precautions to take around the dredge while it is working in the river.

Thanks also to several schools who have started work decorating their very own hanbar units for display around the carpark and entrance to the seawalls once work is complete. Ka rawe!



Wharf feedback

Have you had a chance to share your vision for our new water-side spaces and places?

We've had heaps of feedback and there is still time to add yours. Visit our website for more information. Particular thanks to Ōpōtiki Primary students who have really helped us shape the vision for these community spaces in the wharf / harbour masterplan. Thanks for presenting to council, doing student surveys and drawing and writing your feedback. You are helping make decisions for an exciting future in 10 or 20 years' time.

*Top: Amphibious barge named Hinewai, Sea walls
Middle: Hinewai on the water.
Bottom: Painted harbors from schools, stockpile of hanbars*

Meet Anita at the library

*"Nei rā te kaupapa ko Te Reo Māori e.
He taonga tuku iho nā ngā tūpuna."*

The newest staff member at Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi doesn't need much introduction around town – Anita Kurei-Paruru of Waioeka has joined the team as a Kaiarahi ki te Ao Māori, particularly Te Whakatōhea, bringing the learning she has been raised with to her role.

Anita got to know the library team well over the last year, as she helped them learn the waiata she wrote for the new facility, "Tomo mai rā e te iwi." Her Whatutōhea kaupapa is to enrich the team and visitors to Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi with knowledge and understanding of Whakatōhea.kōrero me āna kete mātauranga.



IN BRIEF

Miles McConway has been appointed interim Chief Executive while recruiting takes place to fill the role permanently later this year. Miles was an acting CEO for the Council around 12 years ago, so he knows the role and area well and is excited to be returning to help over the coming months.

Don't be afraid! Remember, **Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi** has been **fines free** for overdue books for a long time. So, if you have a few books tucked away that you have been too embarrassed to bring back, do it this winter. The staff won't even raise an eyebrow and you'll be able to get back into book borrowing, movie watching, computer using and all the other amazing services that the staff at Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi can help with.

It's not too late to do something new and different this **Plastic Free July**. Join millions of people from all around the world who are taking part, committing to reducing plastic pollution for this month and beyond.

GNS Science and the University of Canterbury are researching the **5 March 2021 tsunami** to understand community evacuation behaviour. This information will help planning and communication for future evacuation events. The survey will be sent by mail to randomly-chosen households in the Ōpōtiki District and also Coastlands and Papamoa. If you receive one, please take the time to share your input into this important research.

Our compliance team leader and environmental health officer has been holding very popular sessions with people who own or work in **food-related premises**. These informal classes have been well-attended and cover things like the Food Act and Food Safety training, how an inspection works and some common issues for the team. It is a great way to make sure everyone understands roles and responsibilities and know about some common mistakes before there are any problems.

Check your payment details carefully this month



Your rates notice may look a little different this month. For the first time, your Bay of Plenty Regional Council rates are not included in your invoice. From this year, those rates are paid directly to Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

PLEASE CHANGE YOUR PAYMENTS THIS MONTH.



If you pay by Direct Debit (DD) – You don't need to make any changes for Ōpōtiki District Council – your payment will be adjusted (lower) so that it doesn't include regional council rates. Regional Council may have sent you an email to help you arrange a direct debit for your regional council rates. If they haven't, please contact them to organise or find out more at boprc.govt.nz/rates



If you pay by automatic payment (AP): Please make sure you change your payment amount this month to pay the correct (lower) amount to Ōpōtiki District Council. You will also need to arrange a new payment to the regional council when they send invoices in September. You can organise a new AP with the regional council or find out more at boprc.govt.nz/rates



If you pay any other way:

If you pay through our website, with internet banking, phone banking or over the counter, please pay the amount shown on this invoice to Ōpōtiki District Council. You will need to set up a separate payment arrangement with Bay of Plenty Regional Council. You can read more about where and how to pay your regional council rates on their website boprc.govt.nz/rates



New pedestrian bridge for Huntress Creek

At the start of the month, contractors installed two cycle and pedestrian bridges, including this one across Huntress Creek. There is still quite a lot of work to do to finalise the cycleway that will run all the way from town to Te Ahiaua. But everything should be ready to go as the weather gets warmer near the end of winter.

PS. You might notice that the pedestrian bridge is quite a lot higher than the road bridge. This is a regional council requirement to reduce potential flood risk.

**ALL PAY
NO SAY**



**DEMAND BETTER
THREE WATERS REFORM
BY 22 JULY**

VISIT DEMANDBETTER.NZ



VOTING THIS YEAR

What makes you tick? Local government shapes where you live. It's the footpaths you walk on, the roads you drive on, the water you drink, and the parks and libraries you enjoy. It's also about culture, community events, economic development and much more. If these things matter to you, vote in local elections.

If you're a resident, and your name appears on the electoral roll when it closes on Friday 12 August 2022, you can vote. You'll get a voting information pack in the mail. Check your enrolment or update your postal address to make sure you receive your voting papers. There's heaps of information on our website.

WHAT DO YOU STAND FOR?

It's local government elections in October and it's time to consider what's important to you and whether you want to stand for a seat at the Council table.

Deciding to play a significant role in our communities by running for local government is a big decision. As an elected member you can help make decisions that shape the future of our district – a great opportunity to see our community progress with your dedication and mahi.

Find out more about what being a mayor or councillors means (and how nomination for these important positions works) on our website.



MĀORI WARDS FOR ŌPŌTIKI?

This year, at the same time as local government elections, you can have your say on whether Ōpōtiki District Council should establish Māori wards in future council elections.

This non-binding poll will inform a representation review which will consider the number of General and Māori wards, the number of councillors and ward boundaries and names. This will go through a full public consultation so that final outcomes can be in place for the 2025 local government elections.

KEY DATES

- 15 July 2022**
Candidate nominations open
- 12 August 2022 (12 noon)**
Candidate nominations close
- 17 August 2022**
Candidates announced
- 16 - 21 September 2022**
Voting papers sent to enrolled voters
- 16 September 2022**
Voting opens
- 8 October 2022 (12 noon)**
Voting closes / Election day
- 8 October 2022**
Progress and preliminary results published
- 13-19 October 2022**
Final results announced
- October / November 2022**
Elected members' swearing in ceremonies