



Opotiki District Council  
STRONG COMMUNITY STRONG FUTURE

# Pānuī

Issue 78 // July 2019



Keeping you up to date with Opotiki District Council

## Celebrating Matariki

The community turned out in force for what we hope will be the first of an annual Matariki celebration in Opotiki.

There was kai, games, music, entertainment and of course a huge fireworks display. What a fantastic way to welcome the Māori New Year.

A very big thank you to event partner E Tū Whānau, all the volunteers, sponsors (Eastern Bay Energy Trust, the Lion Foundation, Opotiki Irrigation and Pumps and Lowes Hire and Engineering), and all those who came to this great event.

## From the Mayor

With the local body elections coming up in October, this will be my last district-wide Panui. So it is a chance to say thank you to the many people who make this district great – here at the council and out in the community.

I really encourage people to get out and vote in October. Opotiki is fortunate to have some of the most solid and hard-working councillors and Council staff that I have seen anywhere in the country. These are the people who make the decisions that impact everyday lives and there are some really important skills and character traits that are needed in those roles.

Being in those roles gives you great insight into the breadth of Council activities and the priorities that need to be juggled. Councils don't exist in a bubble – we often have to implement decisions imposed on us from Wellington or legislation that impacts our operations. We are always aware of the rates burden on residents and how that money is spent and the different priorities of our community.

So thanks to all the councillors who have served the community alongside me for all these years. Thanks to the leadership and staff at the Council for all they do. Thanks also to the community which I have been proud to represent here in New Zealand and overseas as a mayor and councillor since 1986.

I look forward to hanging up my chains and enjoying retirement in our lovely slice of paradise.

**Mayor John Forbes**



*Spectacular fireworks display to end the evening.*



*A stirring performance by Kura Ki Uta draws the crowd.*



*Remaster Music, an 8-piece band from Rotorua wowed the crowds.*



Don't forget, you can download the Antenno App on to your phone and it will remind you each week which bins need to go out and by what time.

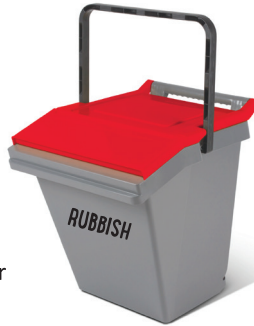
## New kerbside rubbish and recycling is here!

Those on the Ōpōtiki urban kerbside collection service now have four new recycling crates and a new 45L wheeled refuse bin. The new bins have been introduced to stop dog strike, allow for increased recycling capacity, and decrease the need for non-recyclable, single use supermarket bags.

Two of the recyclables bins are collected each week – paper and tin one week, and glass and plastic the next. The refuse bin is collected each week.

More information about the service is available on the council website and there are spare copies of the calendar and flyer if you need them.

If you have any further questions or feedback, you can send it through the Antenno app, the website, Facebook or send us an email or a letter. We'll consider feedback as part of our next review of the service.



Some of the common questions we have been asked include:

**The rubbish bin is very short! How do I lean over to wheel it?** The lockable handle lifts up so you can wheel it at normal height.

**How do older people or those with mobility issues get these to the end of their driveway each week?** We appreciate that it has always been difficult to get rubbish out but we expect that the new wheeled bins will be easier than the previous bags and single bin. The recyclables bins can also sit on top of the rubbish bin for wheeling to the kerb. As always, Council encourages everyone to look out for their neighbours and lend a helping hand if they can.

**What do we do if we have more rubbish than fits into the rubbish bin?** The new bin is much larger (80% larger) than the small black rubbish bags so we expect that average households will find it easier than a single rubbish bag each week. If you have more rubbish, you can take it to the Resource Recovery Centre to dispose of. You can continue to use the old ODC rubbish bags until they are used up. Council also encourages you to consider ways to reduce waste in your household – not just for rubbish collection, but for the planet!

PLASTIC



GLASS



PAPER



CANS





**PAY ON TIME TO  
AVOID A FINE**

**Dog registrations for  
2019/20 are now due**

August 1 is the cut off date  
before late penalties are applied.

Full details on ways to pay  
are on our website  
[www.odc.govt.nz/paymentoptions](http://www.odc.govt.nz/paymentoptions)

If you haven't received your notice call  
customer services on 07 315 3030



**Ōpōtiki District Council**  
STRONG COMMUNITY STRONG FUTURE

## Lower costs to register hunting dogs

From this year, hunting dogs will be able to be registered as working dogs, paying \$40 for registration whether the dog is entire or neutered.

However, to do so, the dogs must be primarily kept for legal game hunting and the owner must be able to prove that they have completed avian awareness and aversion training.

You can read more about this great initiative to promote dog registration and protect ground-dwelling birdlife in the New Zealand bush on our website.

# Waste reduction – be part of the solution

Let Council's new waste collection service be the catalyst for change in your household. We all need to be doing what we can to reduce waste and recycling and tread more gently on our earth.

**Refuse** – say no to single use plastic. Don't buy it at all. Buy second hand. Say no to straws and disposable coffee cups. Prevent waste in the first place.

**Reduce** – buy in bulk to reduce packaging. Simplify your shopping and buy less of things you don't really need.

**Reuse** – avoid disposable items, buy things that have a long life so you can use them again and again. Fix things that break.

**Recycle** – this is not a perfect solution so treat this as almost the same as waste but recycle all the same. Only buy plastics 1 and 2 so they can be recycled here in NZ!

**Rot** – start a compost heap or worm farm or bokashi. Return organic waste to the earth.

**What are you doing to reduce waste? Send us your ideas.**



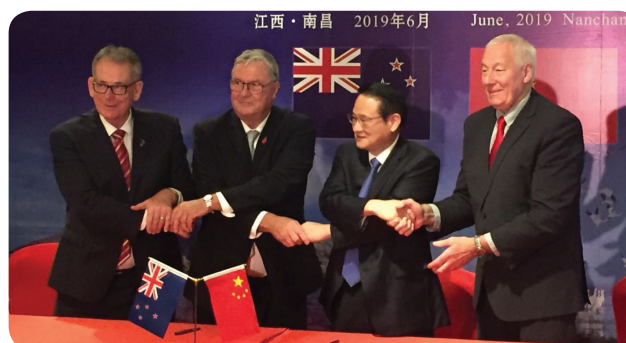
## Visiting China

In June, a delegation from Eastern Bay councils, central government and various business and education providers visited Jiangxi province in China as part of the Friendship Exchange and Cooperation Promotion between the two regions.

Unlike the big centres like Beijing, Jiangxi is a rural province with a focus on its environmental quality. It has the largest freshwater lake in China and dozens of national parks and nature reserves.

The visit and the friendship agreements between the cities and region has opened many doors – there are closer alliances for trade, tourism and cultural exchanges. On the trip, the North Asia Centre of Asia-Pacific Excellence (North Asia CAPE) announced \$190,000 for government funded scholarships, sending New Zealand students and young professionals to Jiangxi to broaden their education horizons.

These opportunities will increase as our relationship with our partner city, Xinyu, and the wider region grows. Keep an eye out for more information on education scholarships over the coming months.



## Arts on Tour

In May we had a sold-out show called My Name Is Moana and in July we did it again with the ever-popular The Carnivorous Plant Society.

Our next show is Solitude in August. Something a bit different, an incredible one-woman show that was nominated for Best Actress, Best Solo Performance, Best Script and winner of best Music/Sound at the Nelson Fringe Festival.



Keep up to date with all the latest news and event information on the Ōpōtiki Library Facebook page.

## Warmer Kiwi Homes

The Government's Warmer Kiwi Homes Programme will start offering grants for heaters (efficient heat pumps, wood burners, and pellet burners) this month. Grants will cover two-thirds of the cost up to a maximum of \$2,500.



There are quite a few eligibility criteria including being an owner-occupier, having existing ceiling and underfloor insulation, age of the house and so on. You can check to see if you're eligible by using a simple tool on the Energywise website or by calling 0800 749 782.

## Vote 2019



Don't forget – local elections will be held on Saturday 12 October 2019. This is your chance to choose the people who will lead Ōpōtiki for the next three years and you need to make sure you are enrolled so you can vote (visit [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz) to check or update your details).

Nominations for candidates open on Friday 19 July and close at noon on Friday 16 August. The community needs elected members who understand the responsibilities and accountability of the role and have the abilities, skills, and training needed to be effective elected members who are aware of the impact of their decision-making.

Postal voting papers will be delivered from 20 September with voting closing at 12 noon on Saturday 12 October. Ōpōtiki voters elect 3 Ōpōtiki ward councillors, 2 Waioeka/Waiōtahe ward councillors, 1 Coast ward councillor, and 1 mayor (elected at large). At the same time, you'll be choosing 4 Coast Community Board members, Bay of Plenty Regional Council councillors, and Bay of Plenty District Health Board members.

## Ōpōtiki's Library Upgrade



Ōpōtiki's library is bursting at the seams as it grows into its role as a community hub and learning space. Council and residents have been discussing the library's future since at least 2008 and in 2016, a new library concept was gifted the name Te Tahuu o Te Rangī.

The relocation of the library due to mould issues and an inability to access external grant funding for the project means that Council has agreed to raise the issue one more time with the community and get feedback on next steps. If we want to continue with the full replacement option, we'll need to consider the implications of servicing a loan to pay for it.

How do you feel about this? Do the benefits for future generations of the full-scale research and technology library outweigh the costs of a loan? Or should we pursue smaller-scale options? Let Council know what you think through Facebook, the website, Antenno or email and letters.

## Tsunami! Tsunami? What do you do?

Do you know when to evacuate? If you are near the coast and experience any of the following, you should evacuate immediately:



Feel an earthquake that is long or strong



See sudden changes in sea level



Hear unusual noises, like a jet plane, coming from the ocean, or



Receive an alert

For more info go to [www.bopcivildefence.govt.nz](http://www.bopcivildefence.govt.nz)

This newsletter is produced quarterly by:



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

Email: [info@odc.govt.nz](mailto:info@odc.govt.nz)  
Web: [www.odc.govt.nz](http://www.odc.govt.nz)

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