



Opotiki District Council
STRONG COMMUNITY STRONG FUTURE

Pānui

Issue 87 // October 2021



Keeping you up to date with Opotiki District Council



Mahi Ora Opotiki – growing good jobs and the workforce

Opotiki is bucking the national trend as our local employers and workforce-support teams are creating and filling jobs at a steady pace.

Data from weekly card transactions and the value of spending across the country shows a national drop in spending in the past year and a half. The cumulative dollar value spend for the whole country is down by 1.1%, while for Opotiki it's up 9.1%.

Our primary industries and big projects, along with all the services they need are helping drive this spending and new workforce opportunities. Remember to keep an eye on the Council's Workforce Matters webpage for new job listings and upcoming industry training opportunities.

Our growing harbour entrance

There have been a couple of significant (and very large) milestones on the Opotiki Harbour project in recent months. The first is the Liebherr 895 crane that has a lifting capacity of 200T, nearly 1000 horse power and can be rigged with a maximum of 80m of boom (although it has 42m of boom in its current setup). It has been purchased by head contractors HEB Construction primarily to be used for dynamic compaction, but it will also be involved in sheet piling and placing concrete hanbar units.

From town, you may have also noticed the very large pile of sand near the mouth of the Waioeka River. This sand has been excavated from under the seawalls so that they are built on solid rock foundations. At the moment, the stockpile is around 40,000 tonnes and over the next couple of years that will grow more than six times the size it is now to around a quarter of a million tonnes of sand.

Once both seawalls have been built, the sand will be re-used to close off the existing river entrance. The current river mouth will be slowly narrowed at the same time as the new channel between the walls is opened up so that the outlet area for the river stays the same.

The eastern seawall is almost half of its final length and the project is on track to open the new channel in late 2023.

Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi update

Building works are almost complete on Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi. There has been a slight delay as ceiling panels have been stuck up in Auckland with the recent Covid restrictions. So the blessing and opening has been delayed until late November so keep an eye out for more details on this event in the coming weeks.



This incredible building will provide the same services as currently offered through our Library and Digital Hub and a wide range of new opportunities including meetings rooms, holiday programmes, new resources and a tech maker space.

Jobs for under-30s

Our Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTfJ) Recovery Projects are steaming ahead, with a focus on sustainable jobs for under 30s. Did you know that 41 of the 94 people now employed at the Open Ocean Mussel Factory are under 30 years old? Many of them completed the Tūāpapa Programme, supported by MTfJ as a pathway into this new work.

It has also been great to see more local businesses keen to join the MTfJ programme. This provides some additional support for rangatahi and youth employees. There are now 24 signed up, and more in the pipeline. Many are on apprenticeships or enrolled in industry training.



Khemp and Jye of Wilson Bros Earthmovers, and Steffan, Tahana and Manaia from HEB shared stories with their Managers and the Mayor, on recent visits to Council.

Council welcomes new cadets

Thanks to our MTfJ project we've been able to create some new opportunities for keen young people to undertake one year cadetships with Planning, Parks and Reserves, and Engineering, and more recently a Te Ara Moana a Toi Project Cadet. These positions will train and support successful candidates in the chosen field of work, and the opportunity to learn about wider Council business and the range of careers and jobs that local government offers.

From the Mayor – around the rohe

When I was writing this column in 2020, I really thought things couldn't get busier for Ōpōtiki, but somehow we have found another gear!

The Harbour walls are taking shape and I am getting a clearer vision of the scale of what we are building on our coastline. It is an amazing achievement so thanks to all the many workers involved in this project.

You'll see a short update in here on progress on Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi and, like many others in the community, I am looking forward to the facility opening its doors and the new opportunities on offer in our community hub. I'd also like to thank the library team, staff and contractors who have been really dedicated to realising our inspiring vision for this facility.

While we are all probably feeling a bit of covid-fatigue, the recovery projects (skate park, town centre revitalisation, cycle trail extensions, and so on) are

also going ahead in leaps and bounds. Although, like many places, we have had a few odd hiccups with supply issues and shortages on our construction projects. But I can certainly see so many more opportunities here in town – new jobs, cadetships, training opportunities and apprenticeships. Take a moment to check out the updates on this work too. And please – continue to follow ministry advice at all Levels - keep track of your movements, wear a mask and get vaccinated as soon as possible to protect the whānau.

I know many of the council team have been combing through the details of central government's Three Waters proposal in order to get our response to Minister Mahuta at the end of last month. We had some clear and thoughtful feedback from the community and it really helped us provide a well-rounded response to the Minister's proposal. We all now watch and wait to see what happens next.

This isn't the only change that is on our horizon – we also have changes in the resource management space, climate change legislation, and a wider local government review. I feel that there will be a lot of change from central government that the public may or may not be asked their views on. I encourage you to keep up to date with this array of changes where you can and provide feedback at every opportunity. At council we will certainly be doing the same!

And just to end of a wonderful spring note – the gardens are looking amazing around town (and private gardens as well!). A big thank you to our garden staff who do such a great job to bring out the best in our public spaces.

**Lyn Riesterer,
Ōpōtiki Mayor**



Antenno

Did you know in the last year we received 380 issue reports through the Antenno app? You can send reports to us straight from the app for everything from graffiti, dumped rubbish, parks maintenance, footpath obstructions and bylaw infringements through to feedback for council, and ideas for the future.



Requests and reports you send through Antenno go straight to the staff that need to look at them making the process much faster. Using Antenno helps us to help you. And because Antenno is a two way communication tool, you can also receive updates and alerts from council direct to your phone.

Download Antenno from your favourite app store or find out more at odc.govt.nz/antenno



Skatepark and pump track

If you haven't had a chance to check out the incredible new skate park and pump track in town, get down there as soon as possible! The new section is now open and J-Stone Skate Parks has done a great job with a world-class facility for unpowered wheels of all types and all ages to enjoy.

The old skate park is now closed for refurbishment so please take care around the area and look after this new facility and report any issues.

J-Stone Skate Parks will complete the restoration of the old section and also build a big new quarter pipe, large surrounding apron and other features, along with plaza footpaths section on the car park side.

Harbour project wins award

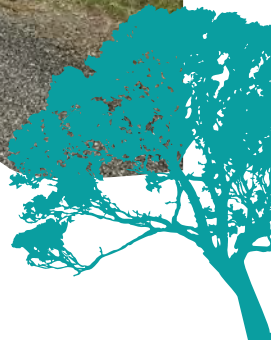
It was a while ago now, but back in July, just after the last quarterly Pānui went to print, Ōpōtiki's Harbour project was the overall winner at the 2021 LGNZ EXCELLENCE Awards. These awards recognise and celebrate outstanding work by local councils around the country to promote and grow the well-being of their communities.

It was an outstanding night and the mayor, councillors and chief executive stood alongside our Whakatōhea partners in the project and central government officials to celebrate the award together.



Cycleway extension

The attractive new cycleway extension along Waiōtahe Beach has been a great opportunity to tidy up some rutted tracks alongside the highway and protect the roots of our iconic pōhutukawa. There are some shaded picnic spots and several crossing points to take vehicles down to the beach. But please stick to marked tracks to protect our wildlife and precious dune ecosystems and look out for pedestrians and cyclists using the shared zone.



ŌPŌTIKI WHAT'S ON



Covid is disrupting a lot of event planning this year and some larger events like the AgFest have postponed the 2021 events for a little more certainty next year.

But planning is still underway for an exciting calendar of summer events. Things may be a bit different this year but most events (except Christmas in the Park and the Lantern Festival) will be able to be run at alert level 2 or lower.

All the favourites are on the calendar – beach digs, movies under the stars and race the tide. If you have an event you want to add to the calendar or want to know more about Summer Festival advertising, get in touch with the i-Site team.

Saturday 11 December 2021

Christmas in the Park and Parade (only at Level 1)

Thursday 23 December 2021

Movie under the stars

Thursday 30 December 2021

Race the Tide

Thursday 6 January 2022

O-mazing Race

Thursday 13 January 2022

Beach Dig

Sunday 23 January 2022

Ōpōtiki Lantern Festival
(only at Level 1)

And keep up to date with a wide range of regular events (Girls on Bikes, Embroiderers Club, Future Leaders Youth hui and many more). Find out more at the i-SITE.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW GROUP MANAGER COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT

Anna Hayward was born and bred in Tāneatua and returned to the Eastern Bay 15 years ago where she has held roles in both local and central government. Anna has a passion for community development and is looking forward to helping make sure the Ōpōtiki community gets all the benefits possible from projects like the harbour development.



Support for rural sport travel

The Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund is a partnership between Sport NZ and territorial authorities to assist the development of junior sport in rural communities by providing a travel subsidy.

The fund provides an annual grant to rural sports clubs and rural school teams with young people aged between 5 and 19 years who require subsidies to assist with transport expenses to local sporting competitions.

Congratulations to the successful applicants of the 2020-2021 round:

- Ōpōtiki Sports Club JAB
- Ōpōtiki College
- Ōpōtiki Golf Club – Juniors
- Te Kura Mana Māori o Whangaparaoa
- Tikirau Victory Club JAB

In brief...

Need a resource consent? Last year, there was a flurry of resource consent applications right before the Christmas shutdown period and so consents took longer to be processed than usual. So this year, if you know you will need to a resource consent for work this summer, make sure you are at the front of the queue and get your application in now to beat the rush.



Love books? Love to support a great cause? Come along to the library's first ever **Container Book Sale** in the carpark behind the library from Thursday 4 November to Saturday 6 November, 10am-4pm. All proceeds will help buy more large-print titles for our collection and make room for even more books on library shelves.

This newsletter is produced quarterly by:



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