



Opotiki District Council
STRONG COMMUNITY STRONG FUTURE

Pānui

Issue 91 // October 2022



Harbour update

Work on the breakwater is on track and the team are close to working through the last of their (very large) supply of rock. Hanbars of varying size are being placed along the walls. You may have seen the busy amphibious excavator, Hinewai, cutter-suction dredging the new channel with material loosened and pumped along discharge pipes to be deposited on land. Some dredge material is being stockpiled for use to close the river mouth during 2023.

Pakihikura is closed Monday to Friday (except public holidays) until 15 December 2022. This means Hinewai can work uninterrupted, digging a new channel for boaties to use from early 2023.



Keeping you up to date with Opotiki District Council

Harbour and Wharf Masterplan

We had amazing public contribution to the creation of our Harbour and Wharf Masterplan endorsed by Council at the September meeting. Particular thanks to Opotiki Primary School for being a part of the engagement day down at the wharf and presenting your survey results to council. Opotiki tamariki shared their enthusiasm and ideas for a community space that people will use and love now and into the future.



This important document will play a big role in making sure that Council is ready for change in the future, shaping how the harbour and wharf areas are developed over the next 5, 10 even 20 years. The Masterplan is now on the Council website. Feel free to get in touch if you want to know more.



Harbour wharf master plan concept drawing



Here's Joshua at Opotiki Pumps and Irrigation. He's a Mayors Taskforce for Jobs programme participant who recently gained his welding ticket.

Locals in local jobs

Council's Workforce Development Team looks after our Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Programme and initiatives like training, education, apprenticeships, cadetships and many other things that can help people gain and retain jobs.

Get in touch with them if you're an employer or if you're keen to apply for jobs locally. If you search "Opotiki Workforce Matters" online, you'll find the latest job listings and upcoming training, or you can email the team at workforce@odc.govt.nz.

Council facilities get a make-over

Council owns a number of buildings and properties around the district, and a few of them may look a little different in 2023:



Cottage in Rawinia Rangi Reserve – this cute wee cottage is getting a bit of a facelift courtesy of central government funding from Kānoa. It'll have a new kitchenette, bathroom, paintwork (inside and out), wiring and plumbing by the end of the year.



The old Hospice shop next to Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi is looking for a new tenant. This centrally-located building will be available for long term commercial lease once the current refurbishment work is complete. You can submit an expression of interest now to lease the building.



The new commercial building in town is starting to take shape. Construction has started on the Laneway Building in lots 9 and 10 in town and council is still looking for one or more tenants to lease that space. Call council to find out more.



The Hukuwai public toilets – we have constructed a new soakage system within the Beach Road – Road Reserve including fencing and signage to cater for the increase in usage of the facilities by both day visitors and overnight freedom campers in the recent years. If you see any issues (damage or graffiti or overflows) please report them promptly to Council. The Antenna app is a great way to do this.



The old rugby grandstand has lost its stairs. The building was inspected recently and the building did not meet the earthquake standards on the top floor (the lower areas are still fine to use). The stairs have been removed to prevent people accessing the area and council will make decisions on what to do next over the coming months. Keep an eye out for more information and ways to have your say.

Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi

The beautiful meeting rooms in Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi have all been gifted new names.

You are welcome to come in and visit and learn more about the names, where they have come from and what they mean on the library website. Don't forget, these useful spaces are all bookable for Zoom meetings, interviews or just a quiet workspace for a few peaceful hours.

Elections

Voting closed on 8 October 2022, and we hope everyone took the opportunity to vote in this year's local elections!

In the coming days (no later than 19 October) we will have final results and know who will be representing Ōpōtiki residents for the coming three years as Ōpōtiki mayor and councillors. Congratulations to our four Coast Community Board members who were elected unopposed: Spike Collier, Tiaka Parata, Linda Steel, and Allen Waenga.

The inaugural council and Coast Community Board meeting will be held on 26 October 2022 and councillors, community board members and the mayor will be sworn in. The first normal meeting of council will then occur on 15 November 2022 and regular monthly meetings will follow for the coming three years. Thank you for all taking the time to participate in our local democracy.



Confused about rates?

Previously, your Bay of Plenty Regional Council rates have been included in your quarterly invoices from Ōpōtiki District Council. But from this year, they are collecting rates directly and they are due to regional council on 20 October 2022. These can be a one-off payment, or you can make payment arrangements with the rates team at the regional council.

Regional Council should have been in touch with you either by email or post, to help you set up a payment plan with them. If you haven't received an invoice from Bay of Plenty Regional Council, you should contact them directly:

Phone 0800 267 728

Email rates@boprc.govt.nz

Website boprc.govt.nz/rates



WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR YOUR ŌPŌTIKI DISTRICT COUNCIL RATES?

If you pay by direct debit, well done! You don't need to make any changes and your payments will no longer include the regional council component. If you pay by automatic payment and you haven't already, please make sure you change your payment amount this month to pay the correct (lower) amount to exclude the regional council component.

Sign up to pay your Ōpōtiki District Council rates by direct debit and go in the draw to **WIN A \$300 GROCERY VOUCHER!**



Did you know Direct Debit is a no-hassle way to pay your Ōpōtiki District Council rates? With Direct Debit, you can set-up payments to come out on a regular day that suits you, even weekly.

You won't have to worry about penalties or due dates, and you won't have to change your amount each year. A direct debit arrangement also means that you can spread the cost across the whole rating year (until June 2023), rather than paying at each instalment due date.

Sign up for direct debit before 25 November, and go in the draw to win a \$300 grocery voucher! Read the terms and conditions on our website.

You can complete a Direct Debit payment authority online or call in to our service centre to complete at the counter.

Our amazing outdoor spaces and places

For those who like to get out and about on their bikes, the cycleway from Ōpōtiki town to Te Ahiaua Reserve (the Pipi Beds) is on track to be completed in time for the busier summer months. The sections already open are proving very popular with walkers and cyclists which is great to see.

Ōpōtiki's cycleways and tracks, including the Motu trails, cycle connection to Te Ahiaua and Waiotahi Drifts, links to town and the wharf area will all come together at a new gateway near the skatepark. The gateway and whararoa, fencing and signage will all in in place by the end of the year.

A new playground is also being built alongside the skatepark and we have had a lot of great feedback from tamariki and the young-at-heart about what that playground could look like. You can see the exciting concept plans that we expect to be built over the next year.

Together, this community space will link to town via The Laneway (lots 9 and 10) when complete. The upgrade of the skatepark, installation of lights, carparking, barbecues, CCTV cameras, seating, toilets, shelters and better gardens have made this area a stunning community asset. Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to provide their thoughts and feedback to make this a wonderful whānau-friendly, much-loved, community space.



- A. Raised section of soft fall
- B. Low cross bridge
- C. Inset trampoline (on slightly raised soft fall)
- D. Roundabout
- E. Row boat

- F. Tandem see-saws
- G. Toddler equipment
- H. Tower set with basket swing
- I. Obstacle course
- J. Double cable flying fox

Ōpōtiki community spirit

Ōpōtiki has given generously in September, with the blood drive and the Ōpōtiki Town Proud clean-up both successful events.

The New Zealand Blood Service were blown away with the welcome and donations they received in Ōpōtiki, including 20 new donors in one day! The team collected 44 units in a day which equals 132 lives saved.

Kia piri atu ki te kaupapa kōhi para tino nui i Aotearoa mā te toro atu ki te rōpū kōhi para o tō hapori mō te Clean Up Week 2022.

The annual Ōpōtiki Town Proud clean up saw 55 volunteers register with the i-SITE and HEAPS of rubbish taken to the Resource Recovery Centre (for free). It was amazing to see groups getting together, volunteering their time to pick up rubbish, show your town pride and help keep New Zealand beautiful! Special thanks to Ōpōtiki Lions, Ray White, Nukutere Kohanga and Ōpōtiki District Council staff who together made up most of our volunteers.



IN BRIEF

Miles McConway has been the **Interim Chief Executive** over the past couple of months so that the incoming council can recruit to fill the position permanently later this year. Miles has really enjoyed the role and his return to the district after many years away and he has been a great help keeping a steady hand on the tiller. Council will be recruiting for a new Chief Executive in the coming weeks, so keep an eye out for more information on our website and in the local papers.

The famous **Ōpōtiki summer festival** is back on this summer! Details, dates, and acts are being finalised but keep an eye out for a fantastic calendar of events including the O-mazing Race, Movie Nights, Beach Digs and the famous Lantern Festival. For more information visit www.opotiki.nz



Works continue on **Richard Street stormwater improvements** but should be completed in the coming weeks. Thanks to everyone for their patience as we complete this important piece of infrastructure that will improve drainage for low-lying parts of town in heavy rain events.

You might start seeing work begin on the **Kāinga Ora housing development** on the corner of Wellington and Union Street over the next few months. Council sold the 5600m² parcel of land to Kāinga Ora earlier this year as part of both organisation's commitment to increasing the supply of housing in the district for whānau most in need of a home.

In July this year, our Coast communities were closed off for several days due to slips and undercuts of **State Highways 2 and 35**. Council and iwi activated emergency responses, bring together civil defence, iwi and hapu representatives, regional council, Waka Kotahi and various key stakeholders to plan and ensure the community wasn't isolated without food, fuel or other necessities. Thanks to everyone involved for their incredible hard work to keep our communities safe.

GET READY TO Shake Out



OCTOBER 27TH 9.30AM

On 27 October at 9:30am, get ready to join the rest of Aotearoa in the national Shake Out event. This is the tenth year the earthquake drill and tsunami hīkoi has been run and almost half a million people and organisations from around the country have signed up. It is an annual event to remind friends and whānau of your earthquake plan and make sure you are prepared should the worst happen.

Find out more (and sign up for prizes!) at getready.govt.nz

OUR NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE DRILL AND TSUNAMI HIKOI

SIGN UP TODAY SHAKEOUT.GOV.T.NZ



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