



Opotiki District Council  
STRONG COMMUNITY STRONG FUTURE

# Pānui

Issue 92 // January 2023

Keeping you up to date with Opotiki District Council

## Harbour update

**The harbour project team made great progress over the past year and are on track to have the river flowing completely between the two seawalls around September / October this year.**

Pakihikura was open to boats over the busy holiday period and the team is now back at work to continue dredging the river mouth. Boats will need to use the designated channel over the coming months and please continue to keep clear of Hinewai and the work areas.

## From the Mayor



**Happy New Year! I hope that like me you are taking this opportunity to enjoy a relaxing summer holiday here in the district or further afield. I have certainly enjoyed a few spots of better weather to finally get in some fishing time on the boat!**

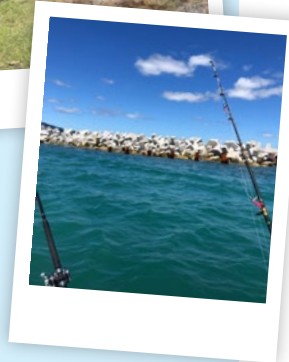
This is my first chance to write a mayoral column for this Pānui and I want to start it with a thank you to everyone who voted in last year's elections and the trust placed in me and your fellow councillors to do the best for the whole community in our elected roles.

I have picked up the mayoral reins at a very exciting time for the district. We are in the unique position of having come through covid with positive growth in many areas. We have opened new facilities, paved new footpaths, built playgrounds and can see the future of our harbour very clearly on our doorstep.

We have much more work still to do to make sure our district thrives and makes the most of these opportunities we have created. I have committed to listening at every opportunity, thinking long term and being transparent in our processes and decisions. I encourage you to hold us all to that!

I look forward to a safe, happy and productive 2023.

David Moore – Opotiki Mayor



*Last year, HEB Construction and Charlie Seymour delivered a 2-tonne hanbar unit to 20 local kura. Resene supplied paint and the kura were invited to paint their hanbar in their own designs and colours. To date, about 16 completed designs have been collected and returned to the site and they look amazing! These will be placed in a few strategic locations when works are finished, for example at access points, on the harbour walls or near parking.*



**A little bird told me... to visit the school holiday programme at Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi**

For the young (and young-at-heart) the school holiday programme at Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi is bursting with fun! The theme this year is “manu” so come on down and join us as we discover new ways to exercise our creative brains! Each weekday until 20 January 10:30-midday.



## Farewells and new faces

Following the local government elections last October, we said farewell to the former mayor and several long-serving councillors and community board members: Lyn Riesterer, Debi Hocart, Louis Rāpihana and Gail Keepa. We would like to thank them for their service over many years and all they have achieved for their constituents.

We have also welcomed several new councillors, community board members and, of course, a new mayor.

The new council were sworn in in October and are already out and about working for the community. Welcome to all our new councillors, new mayor and deputy mayor.



Left to right: Councillor Steve Nelson, Councillor Barry Howe, Councillor Maxie Kemara, Mayor David Moore, Councillor Tom Brooks, Councillor Shona Browne, Councillor Dean Petersen.

## Summer Festival 2022/23

**Our events team are again delivering and supporting an outstanding collection of whānau-friendly events for an action-packed summer!**

Each year, thousands of locals and visitors alike enjoy activities like the Gourmet Food Market, the Ōpōtiki Rodeo, fishing competitions, outdoor movies, live music, and popular beach games and races.

If you haven't already been making the most of these events, it is not too late! There are still O-mazing activities including events for music-lovers, beach-lovers and fish-lovers. And don't forget the hugely popular Ōpōtiki Lantern Festival and O-Mazing Race. Grab a full calendar of events at the i-SITE or online.

*The weather has been a bit disruptive this year, so keep up to date with latest news on the Opotiki NZ Facebook page.*



Scan here for more information on all events or visit [www.opotikinz.co.nz](http://www.opotikinz.co.nz)

## WHAT'S ON

- 9-20 Jan 10:30-12pm** School holiday programme at Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi
- Thursday 19 Jan, 11am** New World Coasty Beach Dig, Maraetai Bay, Te Kaha FREE
- Thursday 26 Jan, 10am** Mitre 10 Ōpōtiki O-Mazing Race, Ōpōtiki i-Site, \$10 per team
- Friday-Sunday 20-22 Jan** Slims Bar Family Fishing Competition, Slims Bar, \$30 per angler
- Saturday 4 Feb, 3pm-9pm** Princess Street Reserve, ŌPŌTIKI LANTERN FESTIVAL, early bird tickets still available
- Saturday 18 Feb, 10am** Ōpōtiki Coastguard Show & Shine

# ŌPŌTIKI LANTERN FESTIVAL 2023

**04 FEB | PRINCESS STREET RESERVE ŌPŌTIKI | 3:00 PM**

**Rob Ruha**

**Gin Wiggmore**

**Tahi**

**Sophie Maude**

**Ellaphon**

**Salem & Manama**

**Dj Jordan Lee**

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY LANTERN FESTIVAL!

The Ōpōtiki Lantern Festival is celebrating its tenth birthday this summer and you're all invited! The line-up is jam-packed with Aotearoa's most talented artists, amazing sounds, kai and fun for the whole whānau.

- Early bird tickets – adult \$15, 12 years and under \$10, 5 and under free, family pass \$35
- Gate sales – adult \$20, 12 years and under \$15, under 5 free, family pass \$45

**GET YOUR TICKETS NOW FROM**  
[WWW.EVENTFINDA.CO.NZ](http://WWW.EVENTFINDA.CO.NZ) OR AT THE ŌPŌTIKI I-SITE

## Council's new CEO

**Stace Lewer has been appointed to the role of Chief Executive of Ōpōtiki District Council.**

Stace has been with council for a couple of years as the Engineering and Services Group Manager, so knows council, staff and elected representatives well.

We have also said a fond farewell to our interim chief executive, Miles McConway. Miles provided a steady hand at the helm through last year's elections and the recruitment process for the new CEO. Miles will return to Christchurch to be closer to family and his work for other councils around the country.



# Local government is changing

**Big changes are coming for local government and you can add your say to how you want it to look in the future.**

The Future for Local Democracy Review Panel have shared their draft report and it includes many ideas to help reverse the trends for low voter turnout and a lack of diversity around council tables.

Lots of options are being considered, for example allowing 16-year-olds to vote, moving to four-year terms for elected representatives, and using a Single Transferable Vote system. It is an exciting opportunity to help shape local democracy for future generations.

[www.futureforlocalgovernment.govt.nz](http://www.futureforlocalgovernment.govt.nz)

Download the free mobile app, **Antenno**, to receive notifications and alerts about places you care about – things like community events, changes to rubbish collections, road works and more.

Antenno also makes it easy for you to submit feedback or report issues such as a damaged footpath, road pothole, graffiti or to submit feedback or an idea to Council. So if your phone is never far out of your reach, neither is Council!



## Thanks to our cadets

With co-funding from the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs, last year Council employed its first group of five cadets in a wide range of areas including engineering, planning and gardening. The trial was a great success; four will continue employment with council and one took an engineering apprenticeship with HEB. We'd love to repeat this success again in 2023 so keep an eye out for more details about our cadet programme soon.



# IN BRIEF

Our **grocery voucher competition** was a real success with dozens of people signing up to pay through direct debit. It is a great tool to set and forget – on a day that suits you, no worries about penalties or due dates, and you can spread the cost over the whole year. We had two (very happy!) winners of the \$300 grocery vouchers – congratulations to Alan and Robert on their wins. Of course, you don't need a competition to sign up to direct debit, you can find out more at our service centre or online.

Keep an eye out for a chance to have you say about **changes to speed limits** near our kura and schools in the district. Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency has recently consulted on proposed speed changes around kura and marae on the state highway network and council will be doing the same in the coming months.

If you are on a small **community or marae-based drinking water scheme** (not a council-run system) then a new government fund could help you upgrade equipment and get training to use it. The new fund covers private drinking water suppliers, papakāinga and kōhanga reo not on the town supply. There are a number of other factors to take into consideration and there is more information on the Crown Infrastructure Partners website.

Council recently secured \$214,000 from central government's **Freedom Camping Transition Fund** to help manage freedom camping in the district over the busy summer holiday period. Council takes an 'education first' approach to enforcement and this funding will help with monitoring, compliance and education programs at each of our freedom camping sites.

Council has signed off on a **new committee structure** for this triennium. Two committees remain the same (the Risk and Assurance Committee and the Regulatory Appeals Committee) and three new committees that will make recommendations to full council: Strategy, Planning and Regulatory Committee, Performance and Delivery Committee and Chief Executives Performance Committee. You can read more about these new committees on our website.