

Arts Trail a success

Ōtaki artists Paula Archibald (far right) and Lee-Anne Green show off some of their work which attracted good visitor numbers during the Kāpiti Arts Trail.

Paula, who specialises in pottery and garden art, and Lee-Anne, whose specialties are willow, felting and other hand-made crafts, were among 18 'stops' along the trail in Ōtaki and Te Horo.

A poor start to the weekend weather couldn't

stop the success of the Arts Trail which included more artists than ever before with two new hubs, one at Ngā Purapura in Ōtaki and the other at Southwards in Otaihanga.

All in all, 68 studio artists, 20 art and artisan hubs, and 15 galleries and cafés displayed

works for the trail across the district.

The annual Kāpiti Arts Trail has grown to become one of the most significant free public events on the Coast and provides arts and artisans in the district with an opportunity to showcase their work.



No legal highs in Ōtaki

No legal highs will be allowed to be sold in Ōtaki, after Council made a firm decision to restrict sales to just one area in the industrial and airport zones west of Expressway land on Kāpiti Road in Paraparaumu.

The LAPP (Local Approved Products Policy) decision has been hailed by Ōtaki Ward Councillor Penny Gaylor who brought the issue to the Council via the Environment and Community Development Committee which she chairs.

"People did not want psychoactive products to be sold in Kāpiti at all, but Council has no choice in allowing it. Sales are legal under a central government Act.

"Thankfully there was plenty of support round the Council table to take a tougher stance on legal highs and this means of restricting their sale is the best outcome."

Cr Gaylor says earlier this year Ōtaki schools, families, police, health professionals and social service providers met to voice their concern over the proliferation of legal highs in our community.

"Like that group of people, I had grave concerns for the health of young people. From listening to the group's concerns and experiences since the legal highs had been legalised, I was able to help pave the way for a policy which means NO sales in Ōtaki.

"Council's influence is limited to restricting where the legal highs may be sold. Without a LAPP, licences could be granted anywhere in the District.

"Factors taken into account when considering where sales could be allowed under the LAPP include how far they would be located from schools, churches, community halls and residential areas.

"That has led us to restrict sales to the west Kāpiti Road location which has reasonable visibility that discourages loitering, is close to medical and police services, and is further from sensitive sites and residential properties than other options," says Cr Gaylor.

There has been a temporary ban on psychoactive product sales since May this year. However, some products may become available for sale from mid next year if they pass tougher Ministry of Health tests proving there is minimal risk to users.

Mural of remembrance



Nathan Picchi (left) and Teruapeka Ransfield (right) in front of the mural they are painting, with fellow students from Te Kura a Iwi o Whakatapurangi Rua Mano, by the cenotaph in Ōtaki. The mural will feature a soldier with a poppy on his jacket and koru designs depicting the three iwi of Kāpiti. It was instigated by Councillor Penny Gaylor who wanted to see young people create something that remembered those of a similar age who died in the world wars and have the work displayed publicly for other young people to look at.

The kids are rocking

Five-year-old Ellena Bills and brother Daniel, seven, give a thumbs up to the 'retro-style' rocking horse that has been added to the playground beside the Ōtaki i-SITE Visitor Centre on SH1.

Council's Leisure and Open Space Team has made the 'yesteryear' look a theme of an upgrade for the playground which involves bringing back play equipment reminiscent of a 1960s play area.

Older equipment in the playground has been replaced by things such as a merry-go-round, a basket swing and a tractor, as well as the lullaby rocking horse capable of seating four children.

The feedback from parents and grandparents has been positive because of the nostalgic link to the playgrounds of their childhood. The theme is also consistent with the heritage building on the site.

The Ōtaki playground is a favourite with shoppers and travellers passing through as well as local residents such as Ellena and Daniel, who attend Waitohu School.



Ōtaki Think BIG – recycling project

Think Big is a joint Kāpiti Coast Youth Council and Kāpiti Coast District Council initiative which aims to support and increase young people's capacity to undertake leadership roles in their community. It provides grant funding, mentoring and project support to initiatives which young people design and deliver.

This year, there are four Think BIG projects in the Ōtaki community. One of these is the recycling project initiated by the Health and Environment Council at Ōtaki College.

"We wanted to make our school recycling friendly and incorporate recycling, food waste and general waste stations into the school," says Phoebe McInerney, one of the student leaders of the project.

The project also aims to increase recycling beyond the school. The group is educating students and teachers on how easy it is to recycle and encouraging them to recycle at home and share their knowledge

with their own family and friends.

The group worked hard with the college caretaker to set up the new systems and had great support from staff who are very impressed with how the project has gone and what has been achieved.

"It is great to see this initiative being implemented by our own students," says Ōtaki College Principal Andy Fraser.

Councillor Penny Gaylor says she is encouraged this Think BIG project will show students at the college how easy it is to set up these

rubbish and recycling collection systems.

"They can take that practical learning experience back home to help set up easy systems in their households.

"These are really useful and practical life skills and it's good for them to be learning about how to do their bit with waste."

Information about the project can be obtained from Youth Council Coordinator Hinewai Fraser on (04) 296 4808.