

Scooter park being built

Ōtaki youngsters will soon have a specially-constructed park to scoot, bike, roller blade or skateboard around in.

Development of the grass area behind the skate park in Aotaki Street into a scooter park has just started with the work due to be completed before Christmas.

The new park will be laid out as miniature roads, complete with line markings, pedestrian crossings, a roundabout and road signs, for kids to whiz around.

The idea for the park was prompted by Councillor Penny Gaylor who had received comments from residents about the lack of a dedicated place for less confident children to play on their scooters and bikes etc.

“I thought about what we could do for those mainly younger kids who don’t yet have the control or skills to feel comfortable in the skate park,” she says.

“In the new park they’ll be able to play safely without being bowled over by more confident kids and there will be more space in the skate park for those who are more advanced on their wheels.”

Pictured: Mahaki (left) and Kade Hill will soon be scooting around this bit of land where the miniature roads will be constructed.



Kāpiti Island Swim Challenge at Ōtaki Pool

A Wellingtonian who travelled up to Ōtaki Pool every weekend for a three-month period to participate in the Kāpiti Island Swim Challenge has praised pool staff.

Lorraine Edwards says the staff were so friendly and welcoming and the pool so clean and quiet, it made her trips up here unmissable.

“I was also delighted to finish the challenge – 18 months ago I could only swim eight strokes without stopping – now I measure my distances in kilometres!”

Aquatics Co-ordinator Joey Paterson says she is delighted Lorraine had a positive experience during the challenge in which people swim 38 kms (the distance from Paraparaumu Beach, around Kāpiti Island and back) in the comfort of a warm swimming pool.

“Our staff put a lot of effort into making customers feel welcome, so it’s great to get such good feedback.”



Lorraine Edwards with the certificate to prove she completed the Kāpiti Island Swim Challenge.

Black Sticks coming to Kāpiti!

Don’t miss the two exciting international hockey tests in Kāpiti this November.

The Black Sticks will be up against Japan at the Kapiti Sports Turf in Paraparaumu on 21 and 22 November (6pm and 7pm respectively).

Kāpiti Mayor Ross Church says it’s exciting to be hosting the district’s first ever international hockey matches.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for us to showcase all we have to offer and there will be lots of spin-off benefits for the community from hosting an event of this calibre,” he says.

“We have made sure tickets are very reasonably priced so as many people as possible can get to the games.”

The Black Sticks have a strong track record against Japan only losing one of the 19 official tests played in the last decade. It will be the first time since the Glasgow Commonwealth Games that the team will have played, with head coach Colin Batch testing out his 2015 National Squad.

Tickets are on sale at www.dashtickets.co.nz. There are discounted family, multi-day, student and pensioner tickets available.

Information services for locals and visitors

Ōtaki residents will be able to get all the information they need from their library and online, when Ōtaki i-SITE closes down in the middle of next year.



Here to help: Cllr Penny Gaylor and Customer Services Officer Joy Allen at Council’s service centre in Ōtaki Library.

Council has approved changes to the district’s visitor information network that will see a move away from a fixed i-SITE in Ōtaki to alternative ways of providing services.

This decision follows a review of the district’s visitor sites and extensive stakeholder and community consultation. The review found that local residents seeking non-tourism information are the greatest users of Ōtaki and Paraparaumu i-SITES and having two sites so close to each other is unnecessary and costly.

Ōtaki Councillor Penny Gaylor says the Community Board supports closing the Ōtaki site but with the important condition that local residents can still get the information they need, such as through the Council service desk at Ōtaki Library.

“We have the opportunity between now and June next year to find the best options for ensuring residents and visitors can still access that information and that alternative information sources are promoted, plus online services up and running, before the Ōtaki i-SITE closes.”

Council will now look

at how the Paraparaumu i-SITE will operate and how the Ōtaki community can be supported to promote tourism in and around the town.

Councillor Gaylor says the changes are timed to coincide with renewal of this i-SITE’s lease in June 2015.

“We will be working closely with stakeholders and the community across the district to ensure a seamless transition to the new arrangements, including finding an alternative use for the Ōtaki i-SITE heritage building.”